PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB

Original Story **NISIOISIN**
Manga **Suzuka Oda**
Original Character Design **Kinako**

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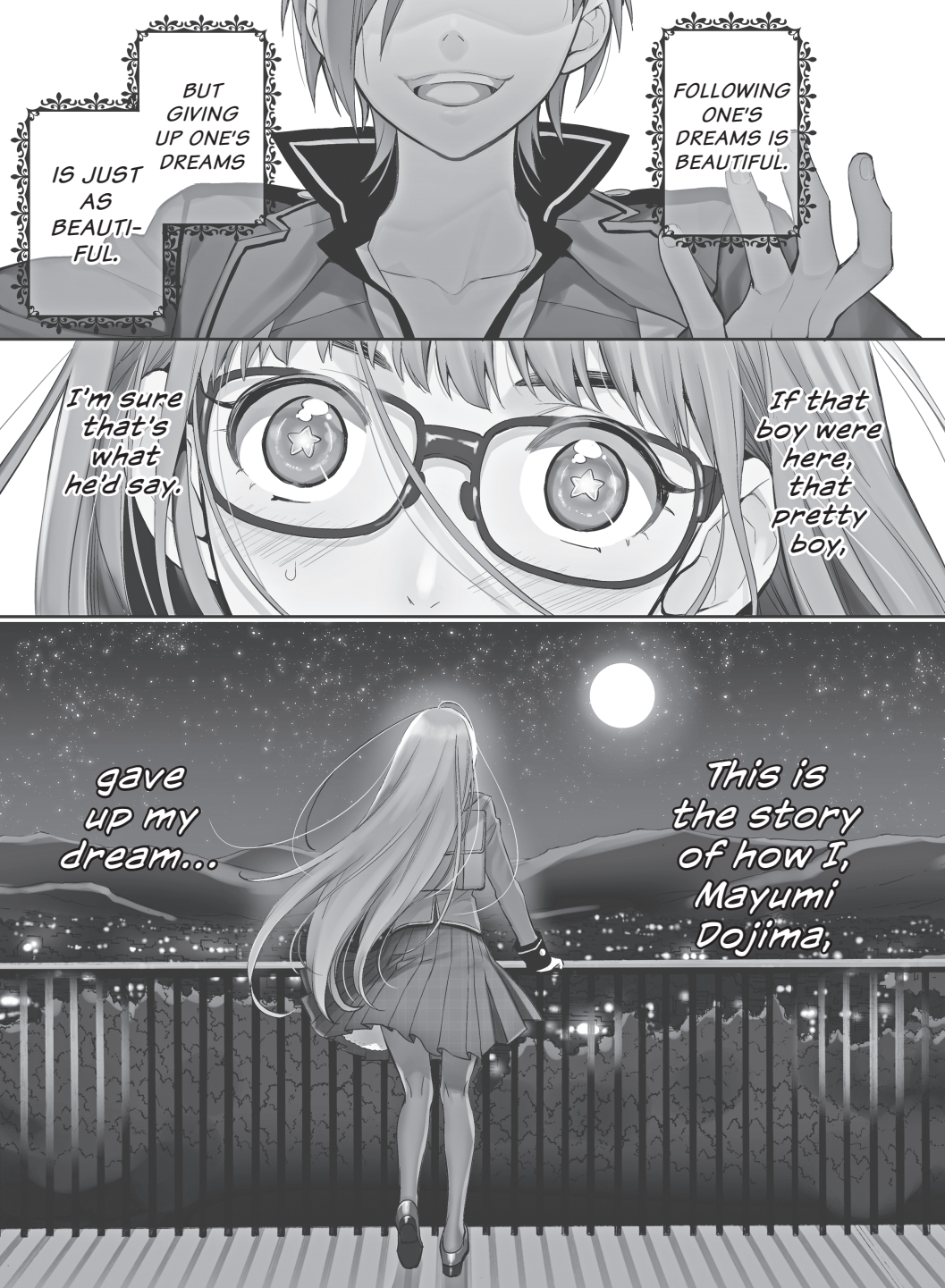
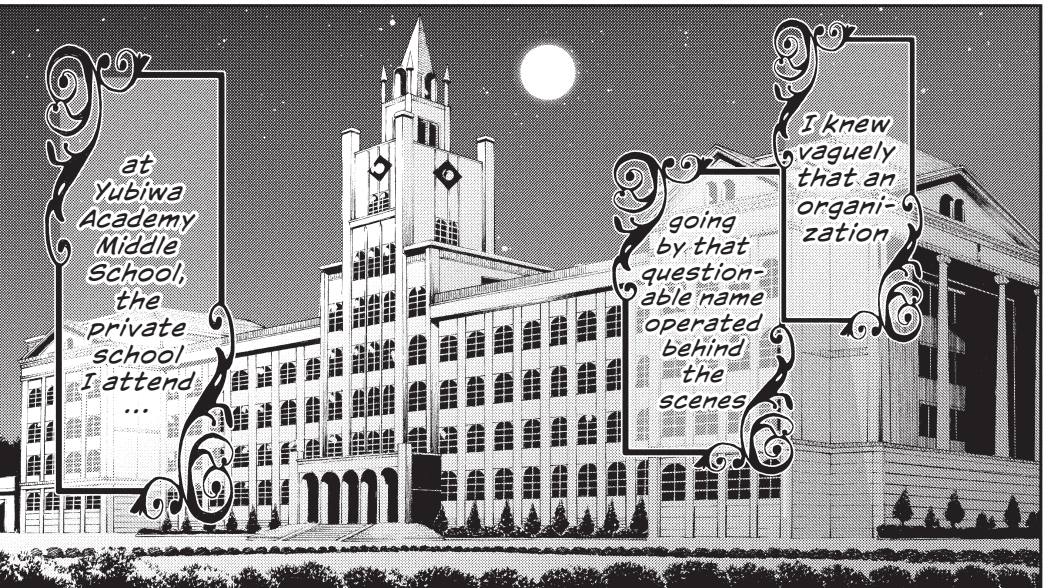

FOLLOWING ONE'S DREAMS IS BEAUTIFUL.
BUT GIVING UP ONE'S DREAMS IS JUST AS BEAUTI-FUL.
If that boy were here, that pretty boy,
I'm sure that's what he'd say.
This is the story of how I, Mayumi Dojima,
gave up my dream...

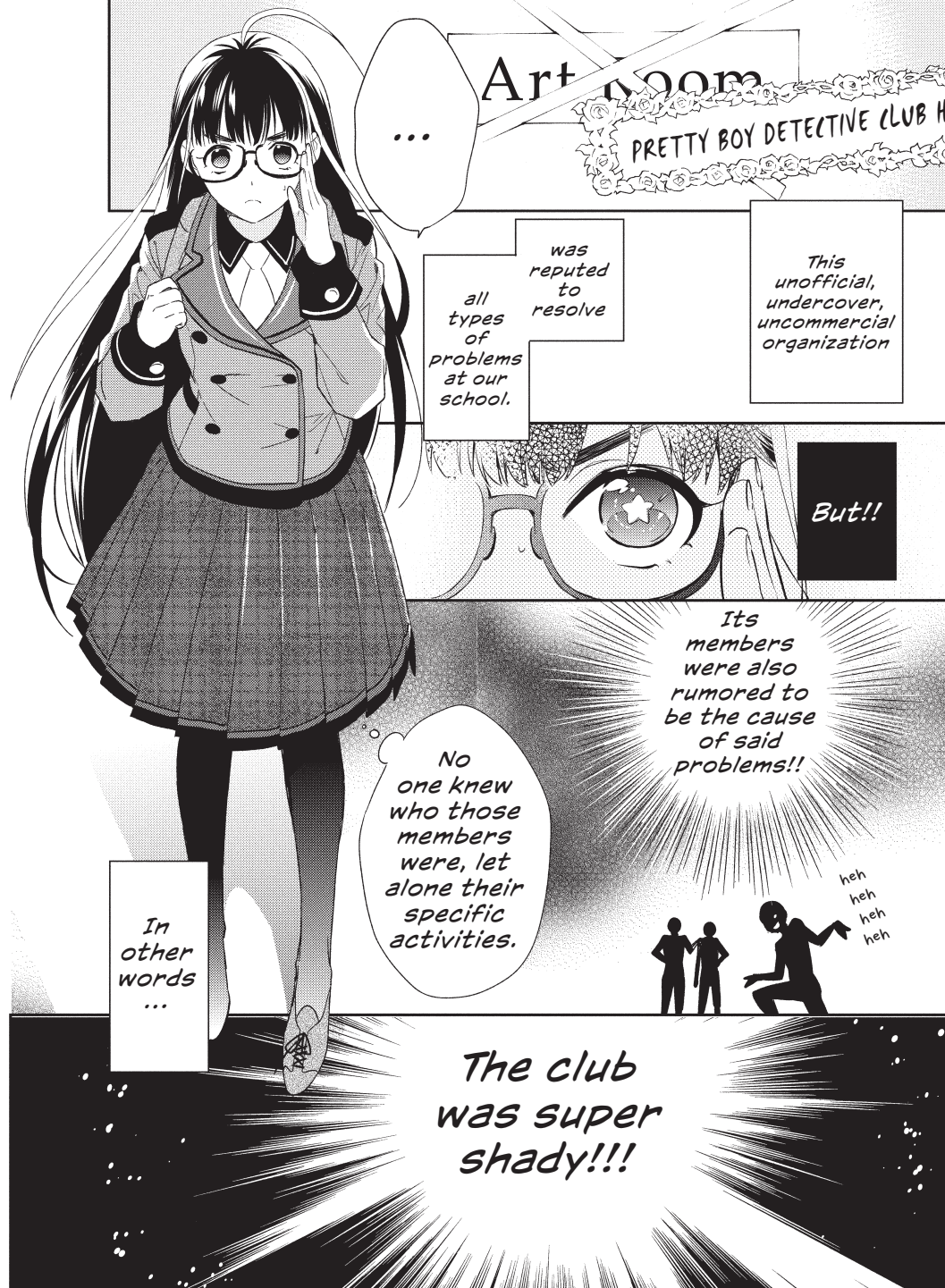
FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 1

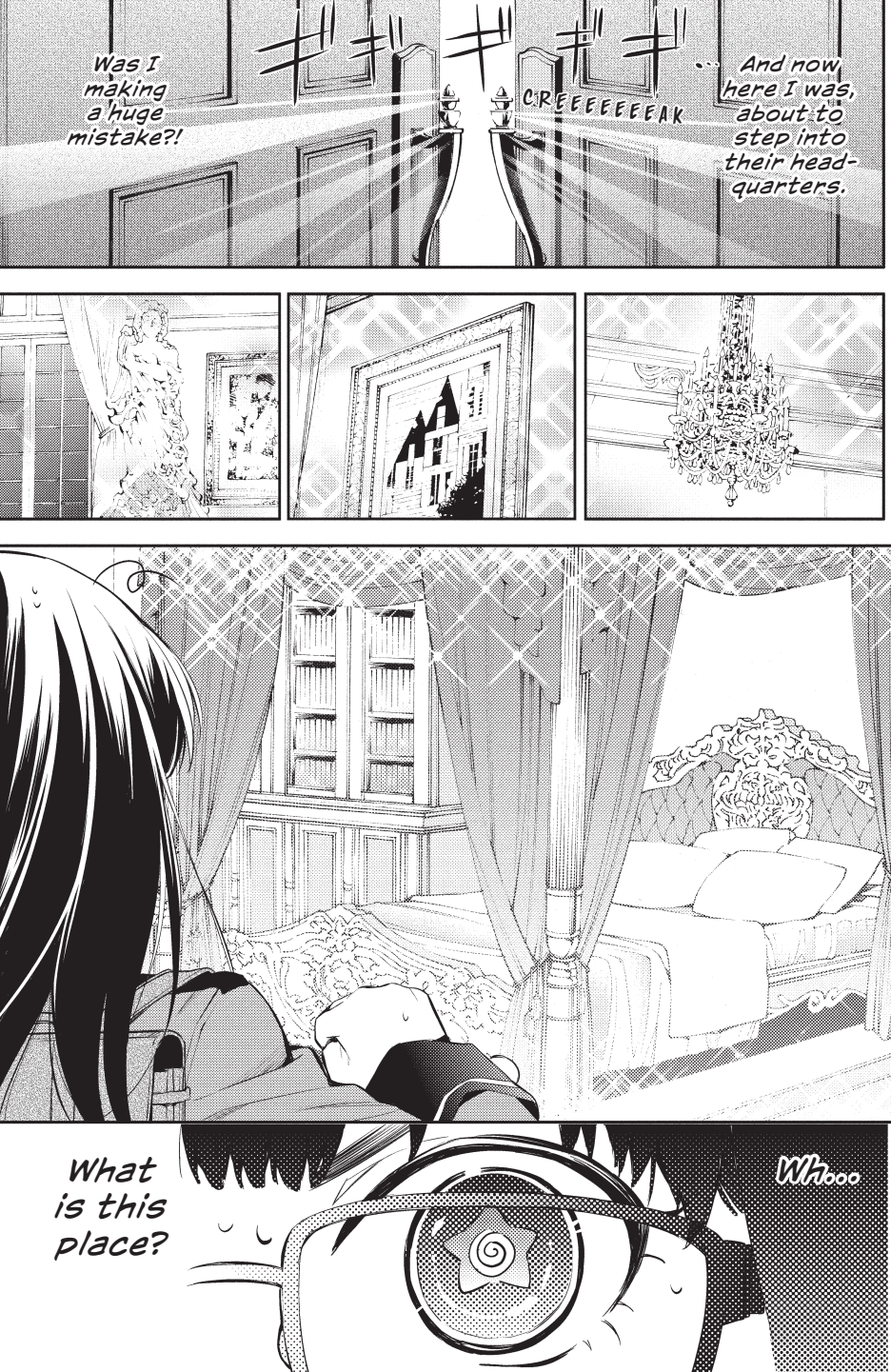
PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

"THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB"




Art room
PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB H
...
This unofficial, undercover, uncommercial organization
was reputed to resolve
all types of problems at our school.
But!!
Its members were also rumored to be the cause of said problems!!
No one knew who those members were, let alone their specific activities.
heh heh heh heh
In other words ...
The club was super shady!!!


Was I making a huge mistake?!
ギギギギギ…
CREEEEEEEAK
And now here I was, about to step into their head-quarters.
What is this place?
Whooo

...These are the members of the infamous Pretty Boy Detective Club?

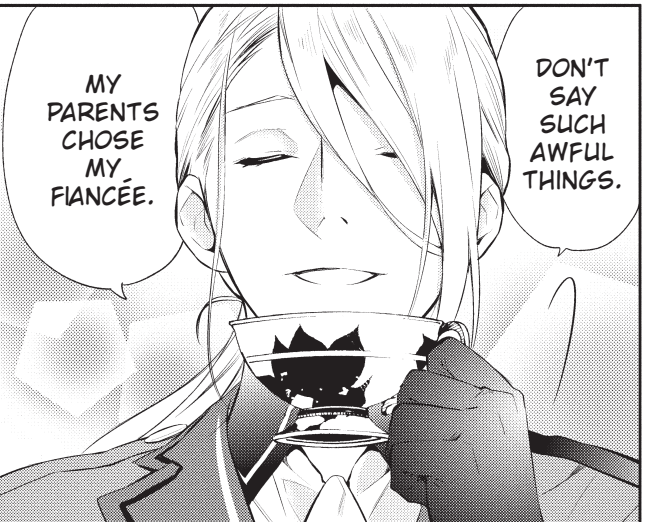
SHOCK
CLINK
WELL, WELL.
WHADDA WE HAVE HERE?
LOOM
LOOKS LIKE THIS TIME YOU DRAGGED IN A GIRL WHO'S AS GLOOMY AS INDIA INK.
I BET SHE SEARCHES NEWS SITES FOR THE WORD "REGRET"
JUST TO SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ARE FEELING SAD... AND THEN I BET SHE LAUGHS ABOUT IT.
Who even does that?
What's with the satire?

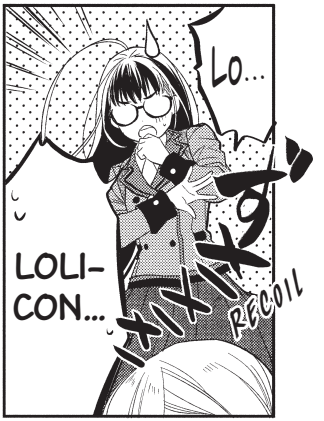
Michiru Fukuroi
Year 2, Class A
チラ…
GLANCE
On the list of "kids you absolutely should never get involved with,"
this delinquent is far and away number one.
They call him "the boss-man"...
ギロッ…
GLARE
That voice ...
COME NOW, MICHIRU. THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO A LADY YOU'RE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME.
What's yer problem?!
I never expected to cross paths with him here...

I MUST SAY, YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL QUITE REGRETFUL.
LOOK AT THAT.
Nagahiro Sakiguchi
!
Student council president, three years-in a row—
YOU'VE GONE AND MADE THE WORLD THAT MUCH SADDER.

He was such a master speaker that he clinched the position as Year 1 class rep
before the election even took place.
Every person in school recognizes that attractive voice.
At least, every girl does.

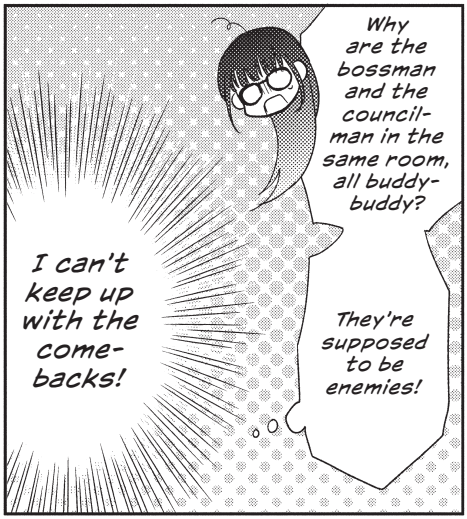
HA!
YOU'RE GONNA SIT THERE AND BITCH TO ME WHILE YOU DRINK THE TEA I MADE...
MR. LOLICON ?!


DON'T SAY SUCH AWFUL THINGS.
MY PARENTS CHOSE MY FIANCÉE.


LO...
LOLI-CON...
RECOIL

SPRITZ
WIPE
It's so different from my image of him...
surprisingly domestic
WIPE
Huh?
That outfit!

TUG
WHATEVER, NAGAHIRO.
HURRY UP AND DRINK YOUR TEA OR IT'LL GET COLD.


Why are the bossman and the council-man in the same room, all buddy-buddy?
They're supposed to be enemies!
I can't keep up with the come-backs!

YAWN
TRUE, NAGAHIRO'S GOT A LOLITA COMPLEX, BUT...
YES, YES, MICHIRU.

THAT SHE LOOKS GLOOMY, MICHI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TELLING A CUTE LITTLE THING LIKE HER
I THOUGHT YOU WERE PROPOSING— LIKE, "GLUE ME TO HER"!
Year 1, Class A
Hyota Ashikaga
bare legs...
And those beautiful
Track team ace, despite being only a first-year.

There's not a girl at this school who's cuter than him.

He's got the face of an angel.

No...

The face of the archangel who bosses around all the other angels...

Those legs are the reason every girl at our school wears black stockings and long skirts...
じー
STARE
?
Myself included.
SWISH

...!
This kid is even more famous
than the councilman, the boss-man, or the angel-among-men.
Year 1, Class A
Sosaku Yubiwa

He's the heir to the Yubiwa Foundation, our school's parent organization.
No...
YUBIWA
He's the de facto chairman...
No, wait.
It all makes sense...
ハハ
フイッ
...
No words, no interest. The iceman. Why's he here?
D-
Did I offend him...?

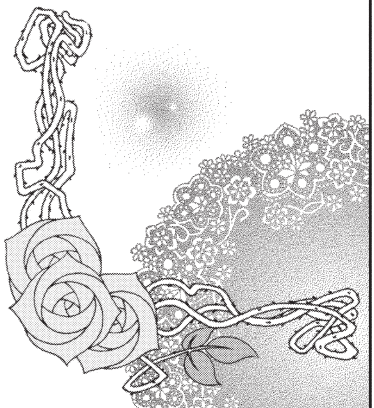
This is indeed a PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB!!
So bright...
So...

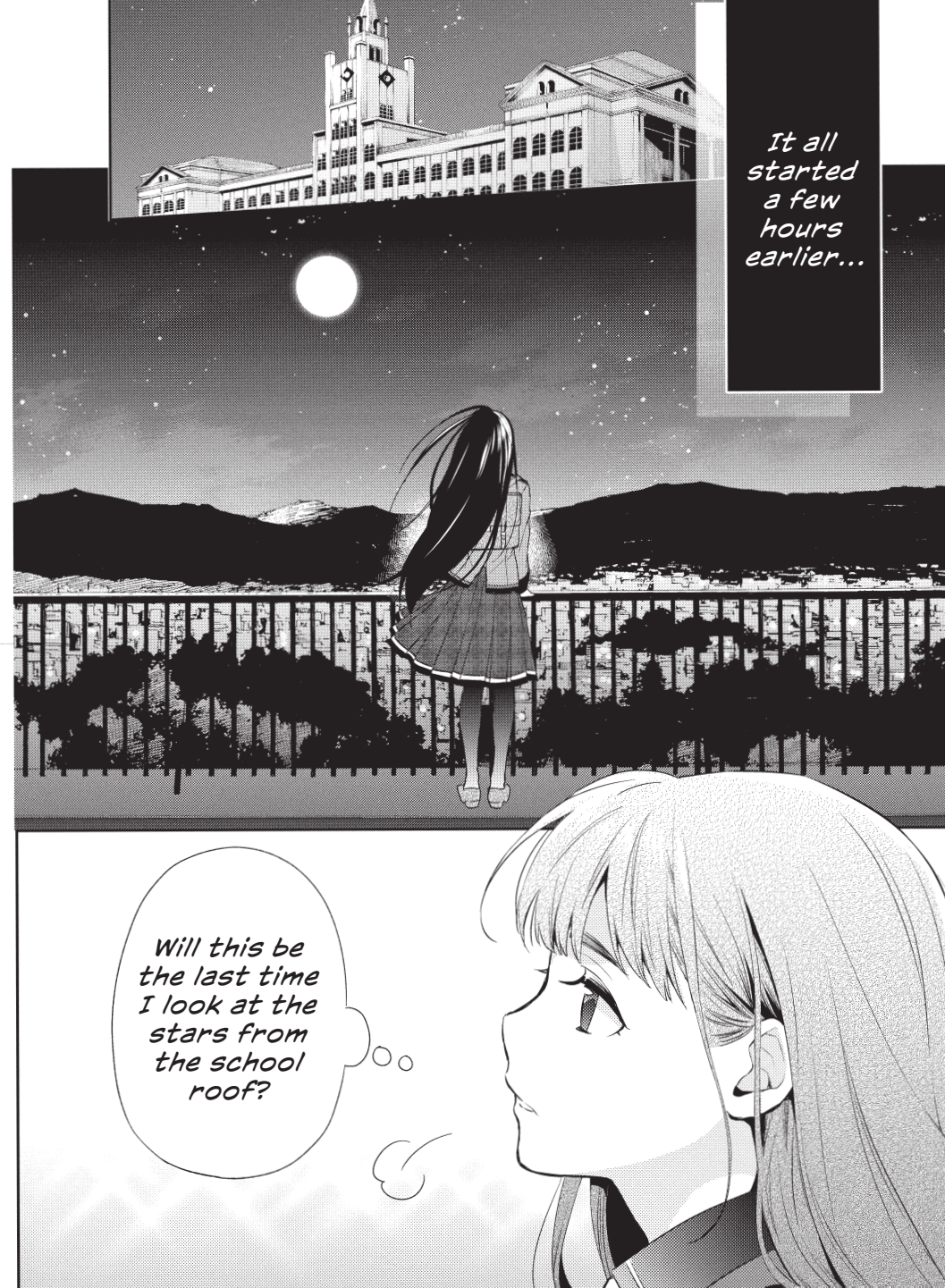
TUP
AH HA HA HA!
ONCE AGAIN, ALLOW ME TO SAY HOW PLEASED I AM TO MEET YOU,
MY DEAR MAYUMI DOJIMA!
It was him–
SINCE THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF BROUGHT IN THIS CLIENT, I WON'T COMPLAIN.
RIGHT ENOUGH.
LET'S HEAR THE MOTION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

To tell the truth,
this was the very boy
who brought me to the art room.
I AM NONE OTHER THAN THE BEAUTIFUL PRESIDENT OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB!

The headman who commands the bossman, the councilman, the chairman, and the angel-among-men.

A pretty boy about whom I knew nothing at all.



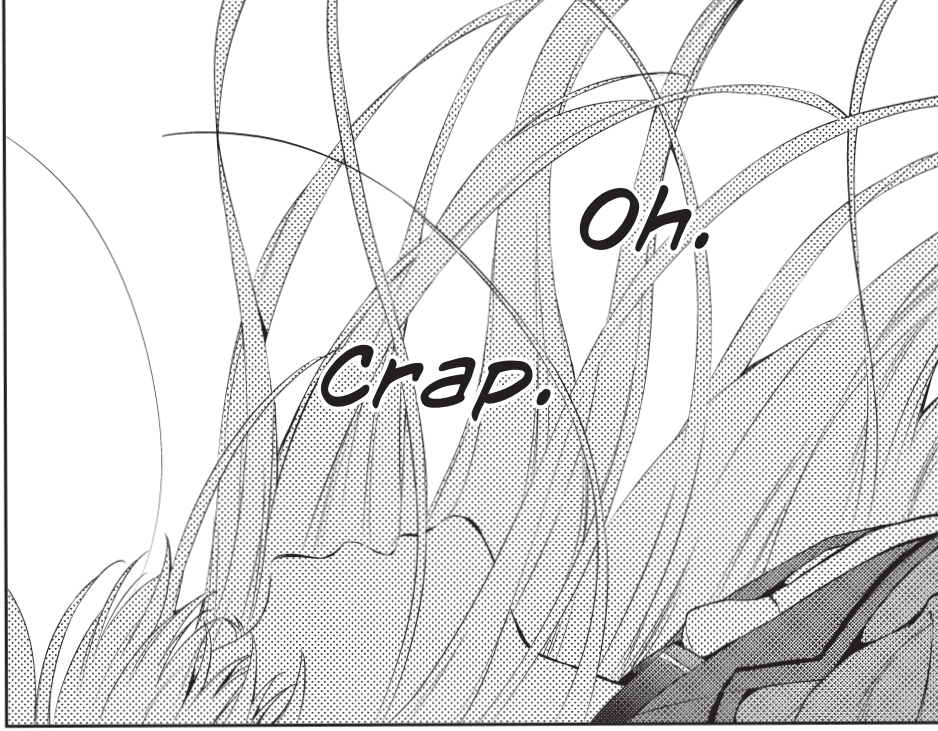

It all started a few hours earlier...
Will this be the last time I look at the stars from the school roof?

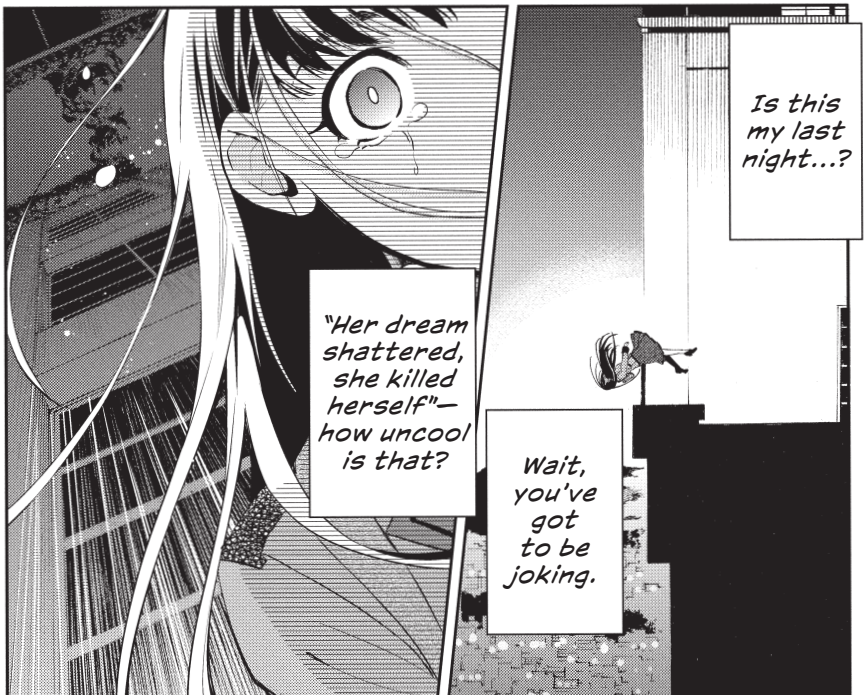
Tomorrow, on October 10th, my fourteenth birthday,
I'm going to end this daily ritual.
I WILL STOP MY CHILDISH GAMES WHEN I REACH MY SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
That was the promise I made to my "dear parents."
I managed to turn it into "when I turn fourteen"...
But it was all in vain.
If I hadn't been chasing dreams these past ten years, what might I have accomplished?
SIGH...

LOOKING FOR SOME-THING?

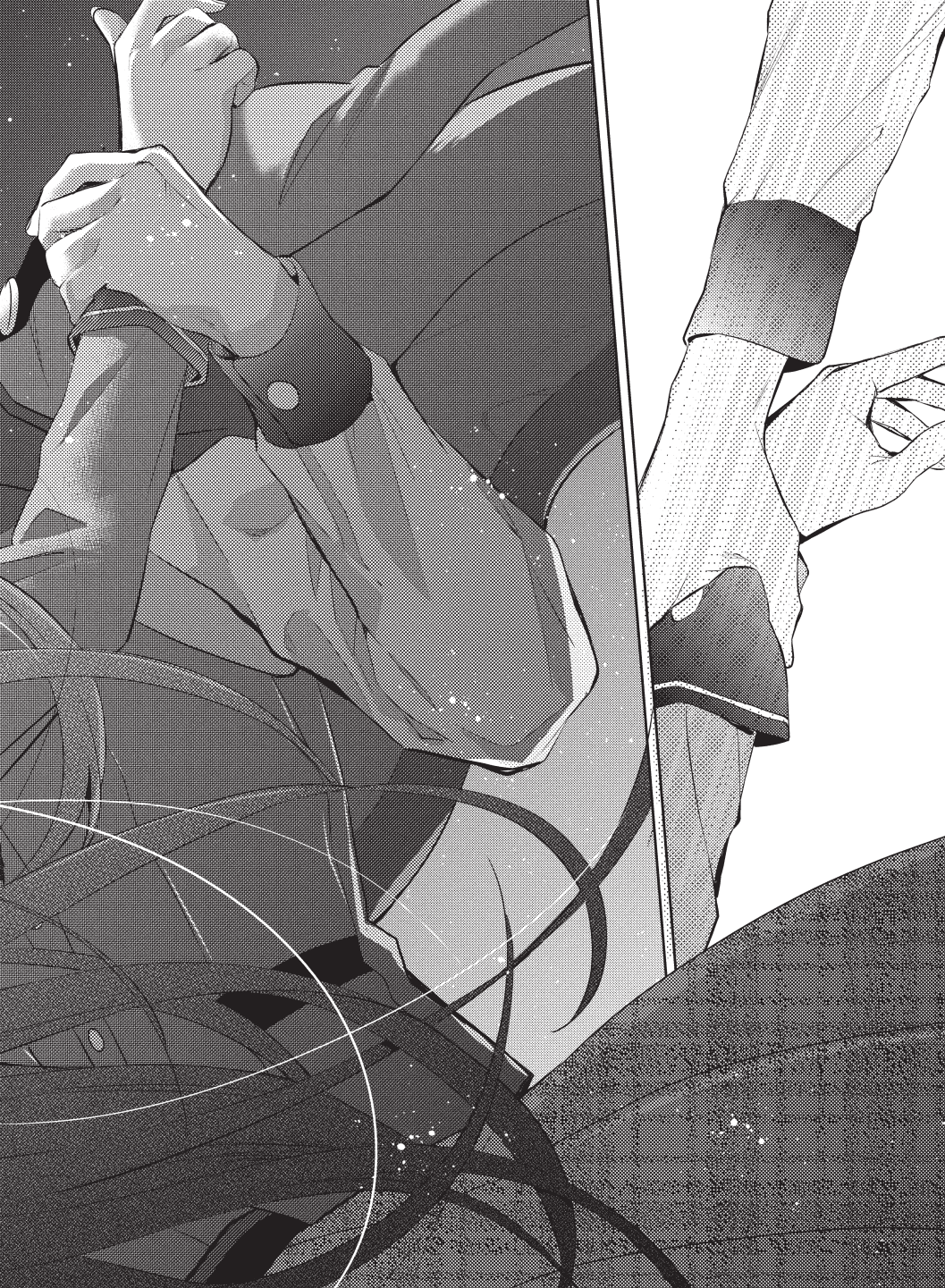
HUH?

STUMBLE
AAAAAAAAACH


Oh.
Crap.

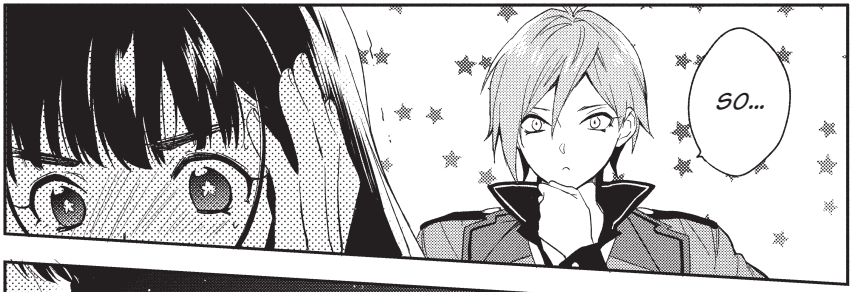

Is this my last night...?
Wait, you've got to be joking.
"Her dream shattered, she killed herself"—how uncool is that?

Beautiful.
Not too shabby for my last vista ever.
And yet ...



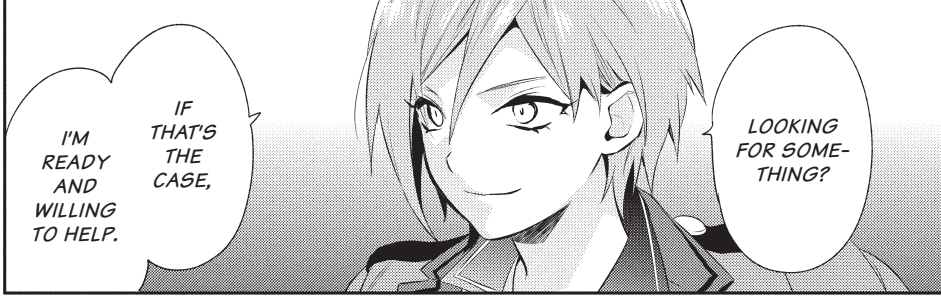
WH-
TH-
THA-
THAN-
THANK YOU!!
You're the one who startled me!!
THERE'S A REASON THE ROOF'S OFF-LIMITS—IT'S DANGEROUS.
ARE YOU OKAY?
BE CARE-FUL.
どんっ
SHOVE

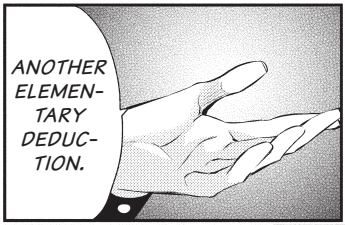
♫ # !!? ?!!


SO...

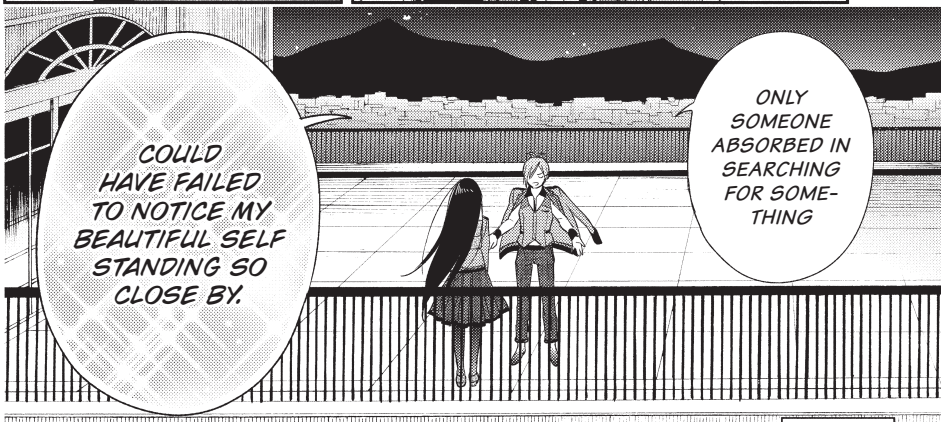
YOU LIKE
STAR-GAZING?

ニヤッ
SMIRK
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
UM...
SRSLY?
...
WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE ON THE ROOF ALONE AT NIGHT?
BLAH
WELL,
BLAH
THE DEDUCTION WAS ELEMENTARY.
He's completely off base–
...Huh? Did he just say something odd?
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, GETTING LOST IN THE STARS.
AFTER ALL, THOSE BEAUTIFUL STARS CAST ME IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LIGHT.
I LOVE THEM TOO.


LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
I'M READY AND WILLING TO HELP.

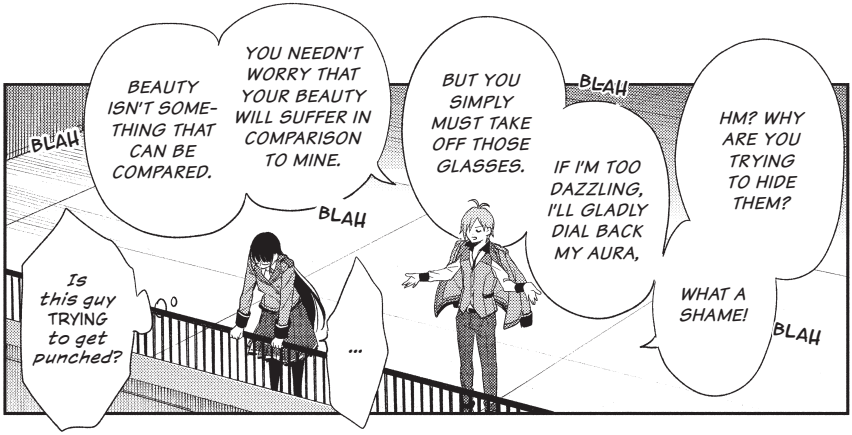

ANOTHER ELEMENTARY DEDUCTION.

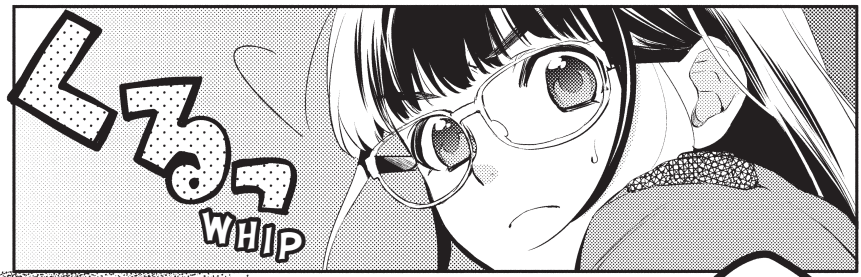
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?


ONLY SOMEONE ABSORBED IN SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING
COULD HAVE FAILED TO NOTICE MY BEAUTIFUL SELF STANDING SO CLOSE BY.

He did!!
"My beautiful self."
He said it!
What a sketchball!
I've gotta get out of here!

?
I WAS SO TAKEN BY YOUR LONG HAIR THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE UNTIL NOW.
HMM?
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO UN-OBSERVANT?
POINT
YOU HAVE VERY BEAUTIFUL EYES.
CHAK
The exact words I least want to hear.
ゴソ…
RUSTLE





My dream was ending tonight, and perhaps

I just wanted to give this weirdo a hard time.

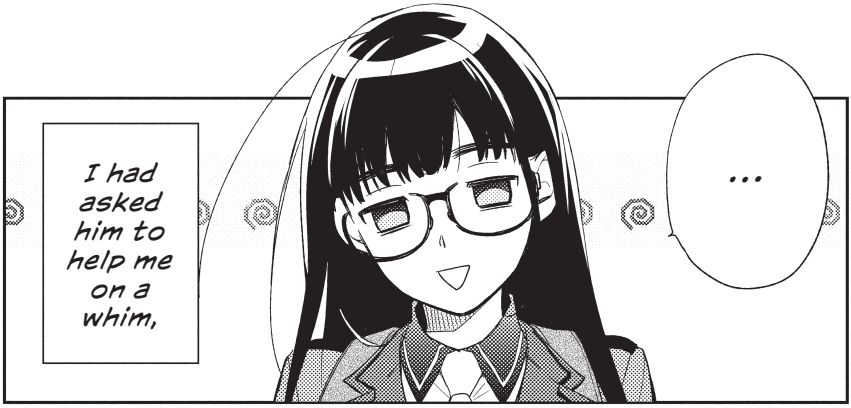
The truth is, I didn't want his help.

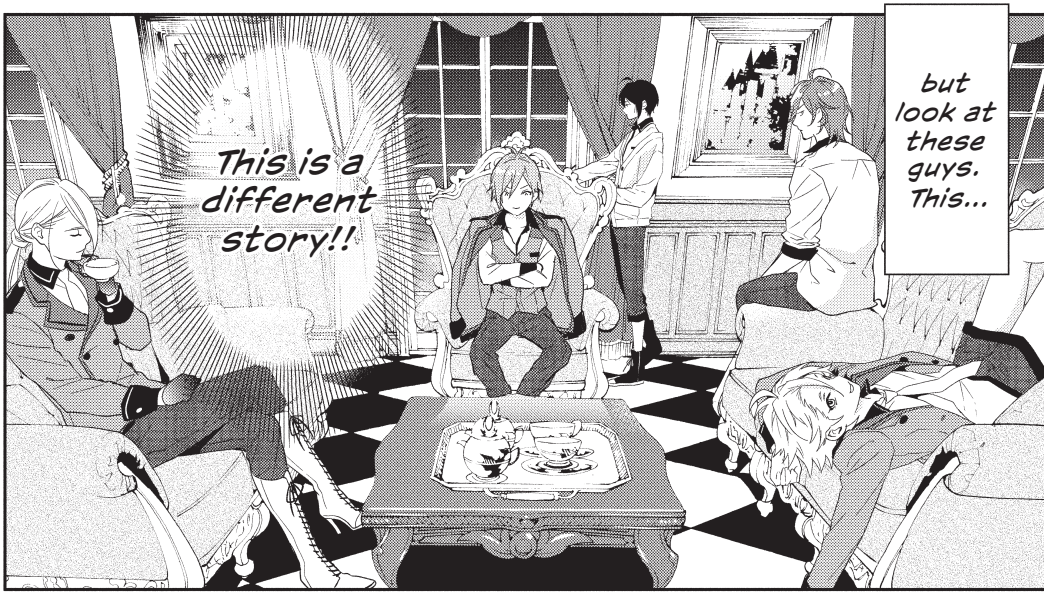
YES! I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING!

WOULD YOU HELP ME?

I was trying to pull this perfect stranger into the final act—

And
that's how I ended up getting involved with the Pretty Boy Detective Club!
BAM
WELL THEN, YOUNG DOJIMA.
TELL US ALL ABOUT IT.
WHATEVER WERE YOU SEARCHING FOR?
OF COURSE!
COME ALONG WITH ME!
TO THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB HQ!
PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB HQ


I had asked him to help me on a whim,
...


This is a different story!!
but look at these guys. This...

コク...
SIP

SNIFF
スッ
Can't fake my way through this...

PTOOEY!!

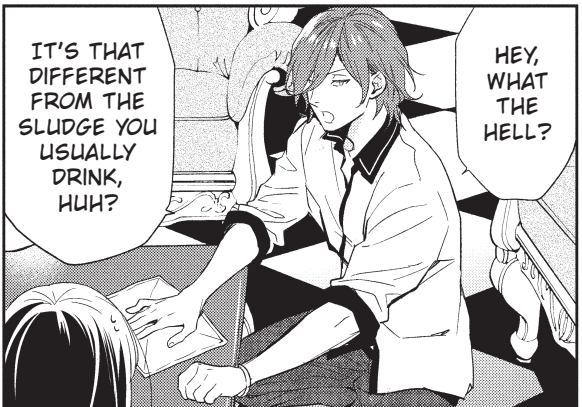
BWOOSH

I've never tasted tea this...

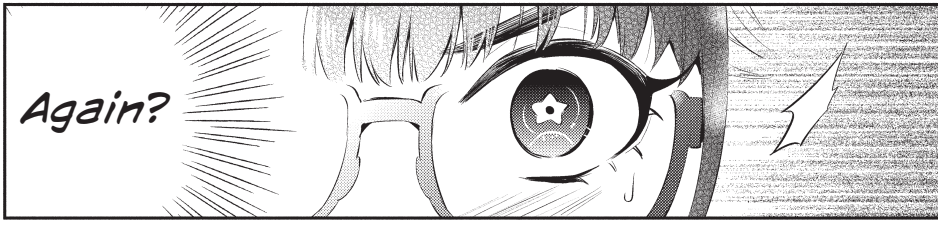
Delicious!!!

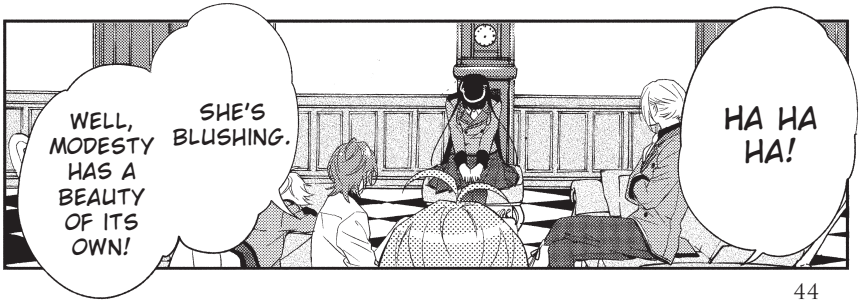
Like it was poison.

I spit it out the second it touched my tongue!



BUT LOOK AT HER, LADS!
DON'T YOU AGREE THAT HER EYES ARE BEAUTIFUL?
LOOK, LOOK SO HARD YOU BURN A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH!


Again?


HA HA HA!
SHE'S BLUSHING.
WELL, MODESTY HAS A BEAUTY OF ITS OWN!

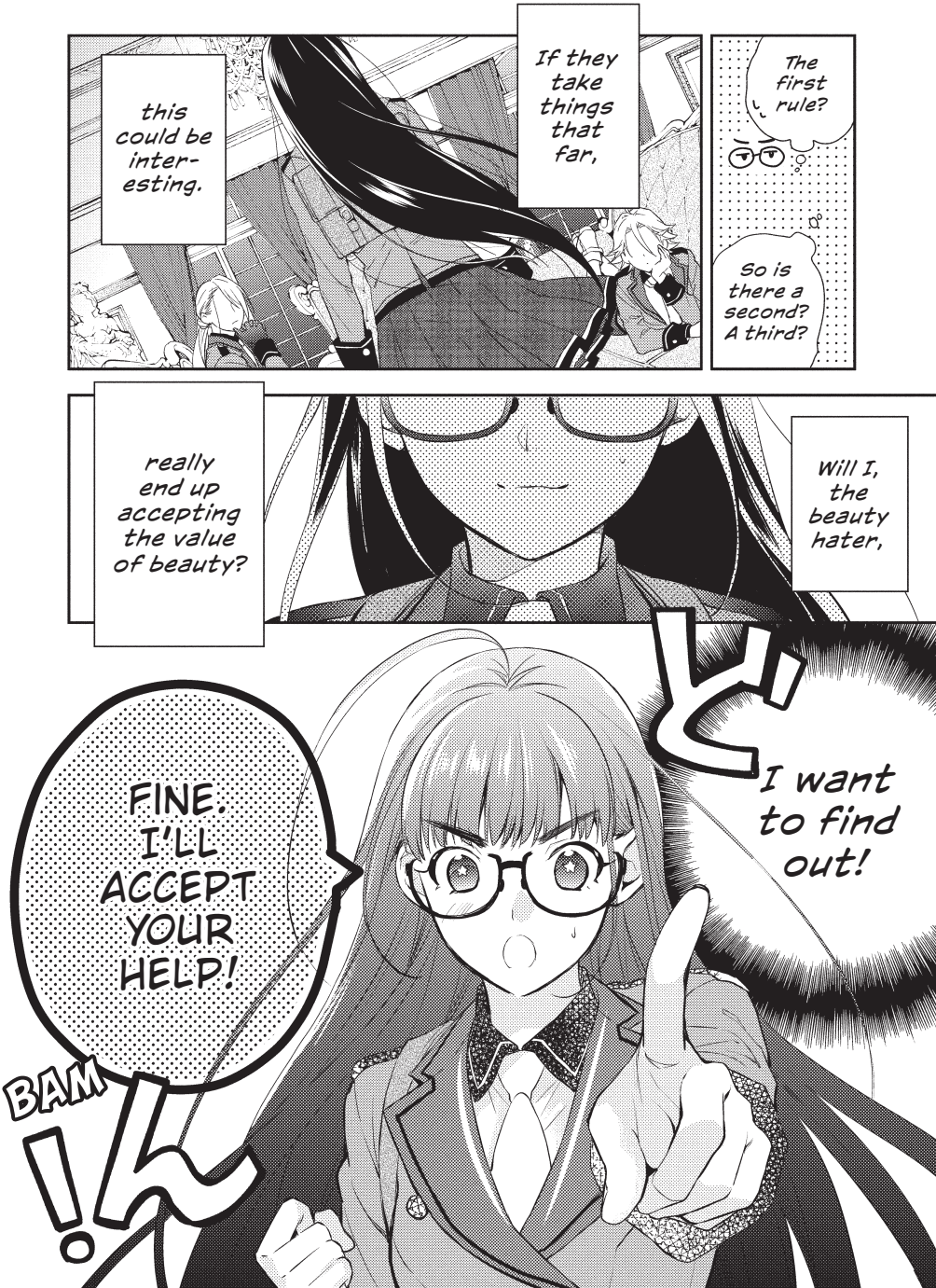
I'm furious.
I'm not blushing.
...
SLAM
!

I HATE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE.
DON'T THINK EVERYTHING WILL GO YOUR WAY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE KIND OF GOOD-LOOKING.
Now I've done it...

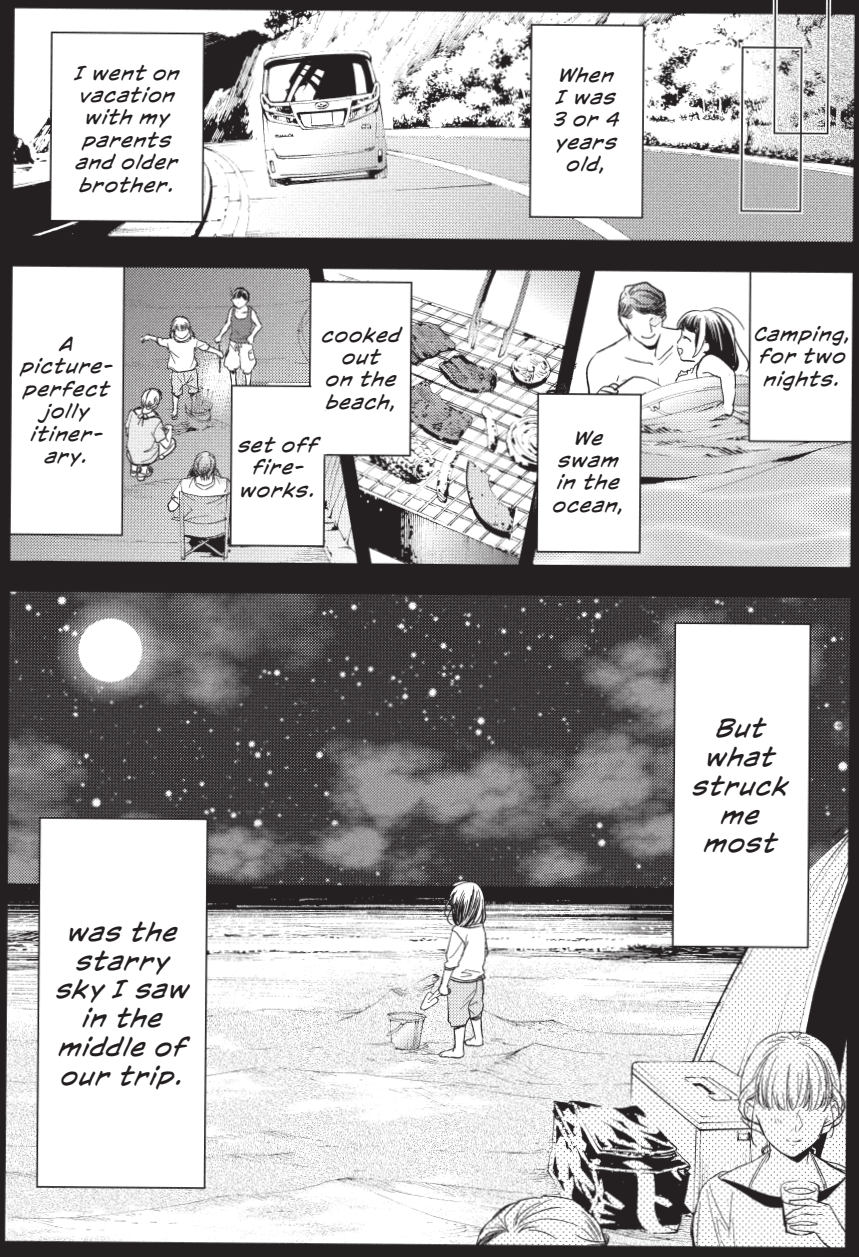
But at least this should have the happy result of getting me kicked out of their HQ (aka the art room).
PFFT
HEH HEH HEH
TEE HEE HEE
HA HA HA
WH—
WH...
WHAT ?!
HEH ...
even Yubiwa?!
MY APOLOGIES. I DIDN'T INTEND TO LAUGH, BUT—
WHAT YOU SAID IS SO TYPICAL.

IT'S SO WEIRD.
TOTALLY !
EVERYONE WHO COMES IN HERE SAYS THE SAME THING: BEAUTY IS WORTHLESS.
BUT IN THE END, THEY ALL ACCEPT THE VALUE OF BEAUTY.
TYPICAL ...?
YOUNG DOJIMA.
ALLOW ME ONE CORRECTION, PLEASE.
BUT I REQUEST YOU TAKE BACK THE PHRASE "GOOD-LOOKING."
IT MAKES US SOUND AS IF WE'RE PUTTING ON AIRS.
I ACCEPT THE WORDS "BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE" AS OUR PROUD BURDEN.
ARE "BEAUTIFUL" AND "GOOD-LOOKING" DIFFERENT?
seem the same to me...
POING
OF COURSE!

THE FIRST RULE OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB:
"BE PRETTY."


this could be inter-esting.
If they take things that far,
The first rule?
So is there a second? A third?
really end up accepting the value of beauty?
Will I, the beauty hater,
I want to find out!
FINE. I'LL ACCEPT YOUR HELP!
BAM!

A STAR I SAW TEN YEARS AGO...
GOOD!
NOW, YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOME-THING?
I'M...
LOOKING FOR A STAR.
A STAR ...?


I went on vacation with my parents and older brother.
When I was 3 or 4 years old,
A picture-perfect jolly itinerary.
cooked out on the beach,
set off fireworks.
We swam in the ocean,
Camping, for two nights.
But what struck me most
was the starry sky I saw in the middle of our trip.

It seemed so close, I felt like I could reach out and touch it.
I was enchanted by one star in particular,
brighter and more beautiful than the rest.
So from that day on, I dreamed of becoming an astronaut.
I wanted to visit it someday.

I lost it.

But.

The star that should have determined my future ...

The star that moved me so deeply...

No matter how relentlessly I searched the sky,

from that day to this,

I could never find it again.

At first everyone tried to soothe me.

But I wouldn't give up.

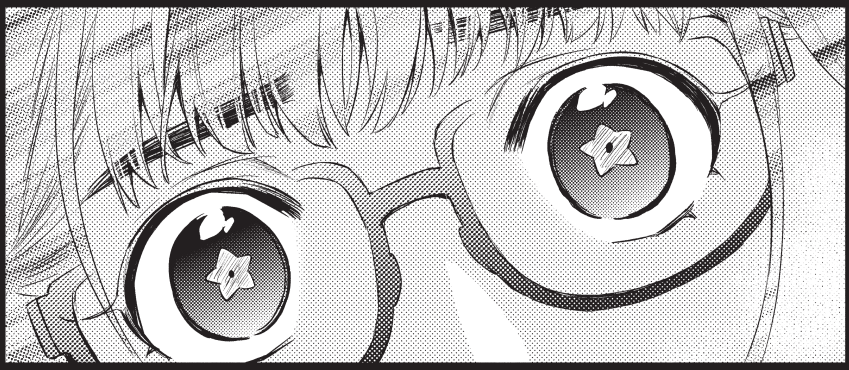
I was stubborn, and eventually sympathy turned to reproach.

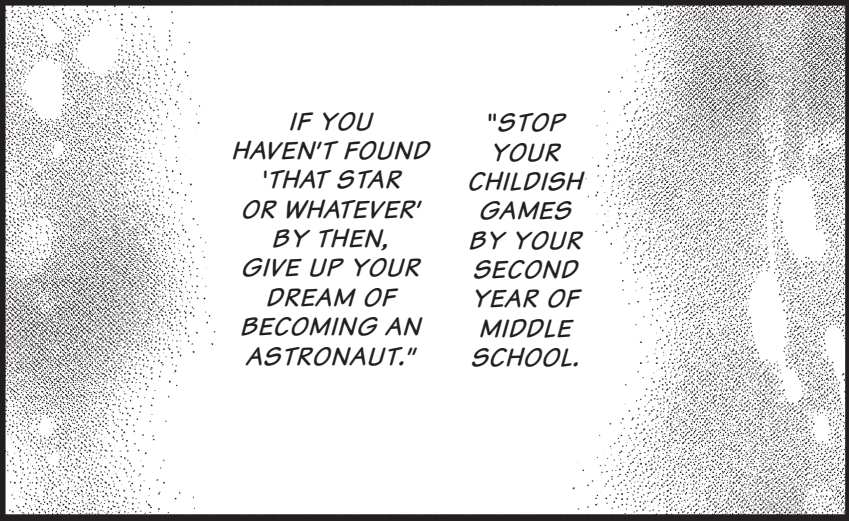
At some point, I began to teach myself astronomy.

I was all alone,

single-mindedly searching for my lost star.

"STOP DREAMING AND THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!"

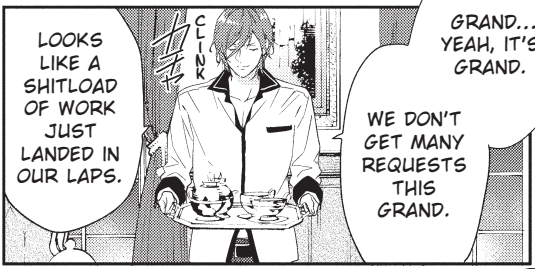


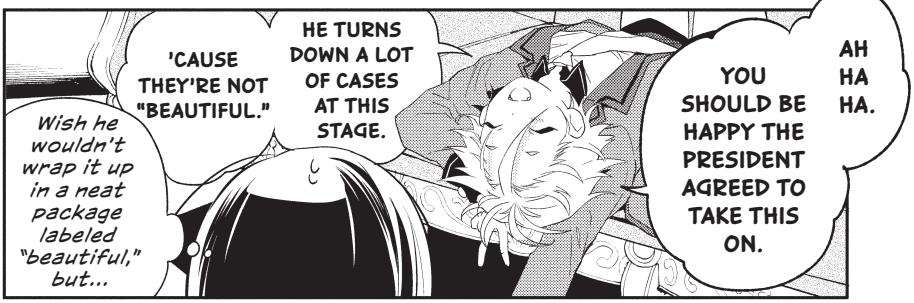

"STOP YOUR CHILDISH GAMES BY YOUR SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
IF YOU HAVEN'T FOUND 'THAT STAR OR WHATEVER' BY THEN, GIVE UP YOUR DREAM OF BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT."

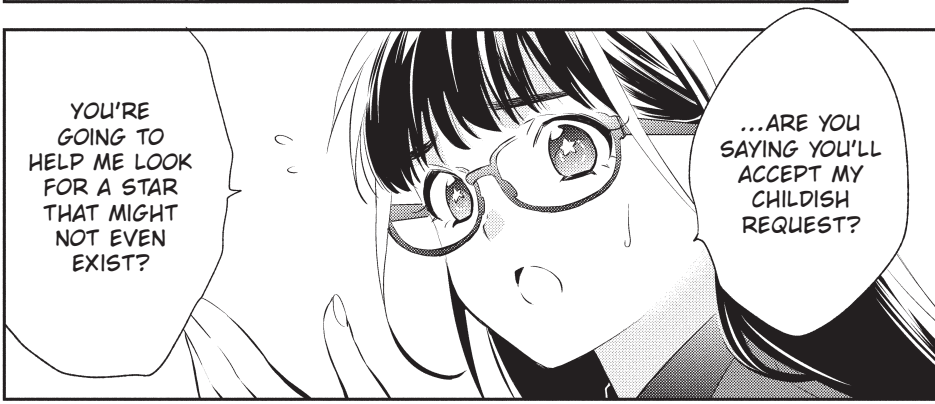
After all, a star like that could never have existed in the first place—
That way of being—that me—is about to end.
On October 10th, my fourteenth birthday, my "star search" will end.
No—it never really began.

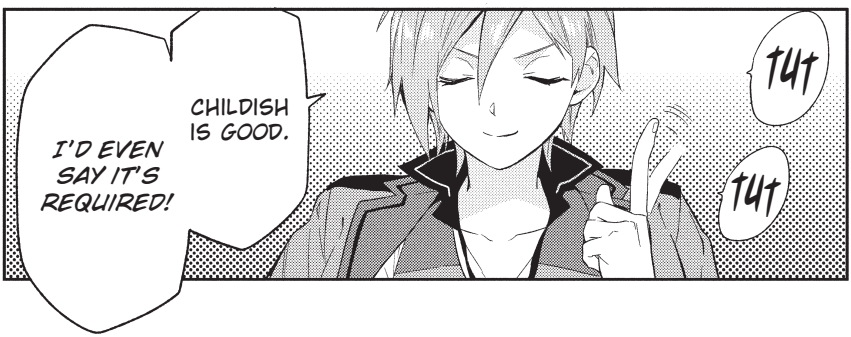
...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THE SEARCH FOR A BEAUTIFUL LOST STAR!
BEAUTIFUL !!!
CLATTER
A GRAND CASE LIKE THIS IS PERFECT FOR THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB!
!!

that mean you'll take my case?
UM... DOES...


LOOKS LIKE A SHITLOAD OF WORK JUST LANDED IN OUR LAPS.
CLINK
GRAND... YEAH, IT'S GRAND.
WE DON'T GET MANY REQUESTS THIS GRAND.


Wish he wouldn't wrap it up in a neat package labeled "beautiful," but...
'CAUSE THEY'RE NOT "BEAUTIFUL."
HE TURNS DOWN A LOT OF CASES AT THIS STAGE.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY THE PRESIDENT AGREED TO TAKE THIS ON.
AH HA HA.


YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME LOOK FOR A STAR THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN EXIST?
...ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL ACCEPT MY CHILDISH REQUEST?

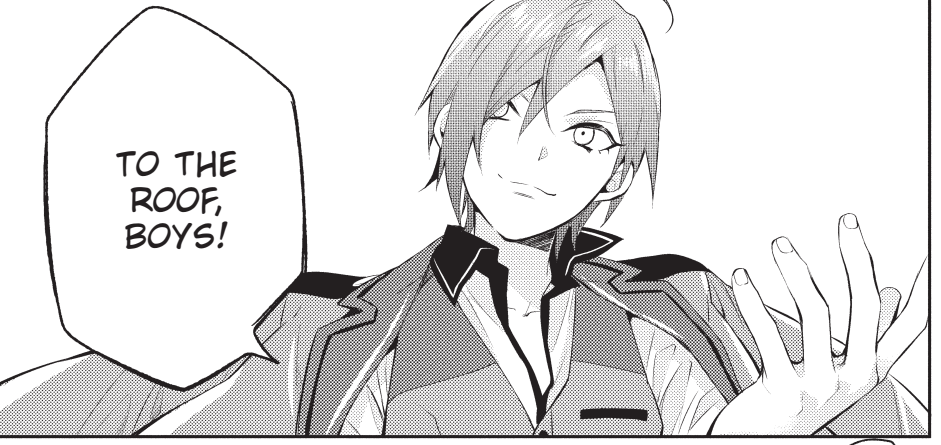

I'D EVEN SAY IT'S REQUIRED!
CHILDISH IS GOOD.
TUT
TUT

PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB
POING
RULE #2:
"BE A BOY"
!

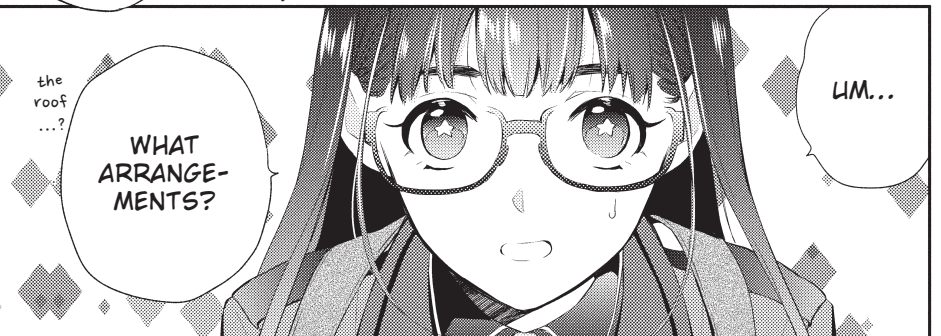
BOY...
BE A...
TOTALLY!
WE'LL ALWAYS STAY CHILDREN AT HEART.
THAT'S WHY I'LL ALWAYS WEAR SHORTS.
HYOTA THE ADONIS, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL LEGS—THAT'S ME.

SO ARE YOU SITTING UPSIDE DOWN LIKE THAT TO SHOW OFF YOUR LEGS?
NO WAY.
HE SITS LIKE THAT
he does have nice legs, though
What kind of nickname is that?
SO HIS EYES ARE AT THE RIGHT LEVEL TO LOOK UP THE SKIRTS OF GIRLS SITTING WHERE YOU ARE NOW.
Why didn't you tell me sooner?!
FWUP
WHAAA ?!!
That's your own gorgeous legs' fault...
CHIK
LATELY ALL THE GIRLS WEAR THEIR SKIRTS LONG, THOUGH, SO IT HASN'T BEEN WORKING.

CREAK
Yubiwa...?
SLAM
DON'T WORRY.
THE YOUNG CHAP JUST WENT TO MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS.
CLATTER


TO THE ROOF, BOYS!

GOTCHA.
SWOOSH
ぴょんっ
BOING
WILL DO.
CLACK
YESSIR.


UM...
WHAT ARRANGE-MENTS?
the roof ...?

WHAT ELSE COULD I MEAN?
WUP
WUP
WUP

WUP
WUP
WUP
WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH FOR YOUR STAR!

PRETTY BOY

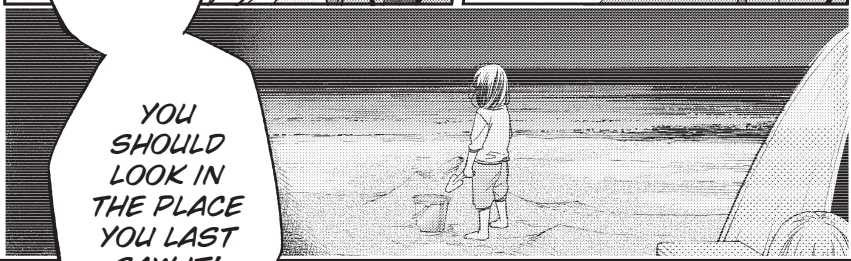
DETECTIVE CLUB!!

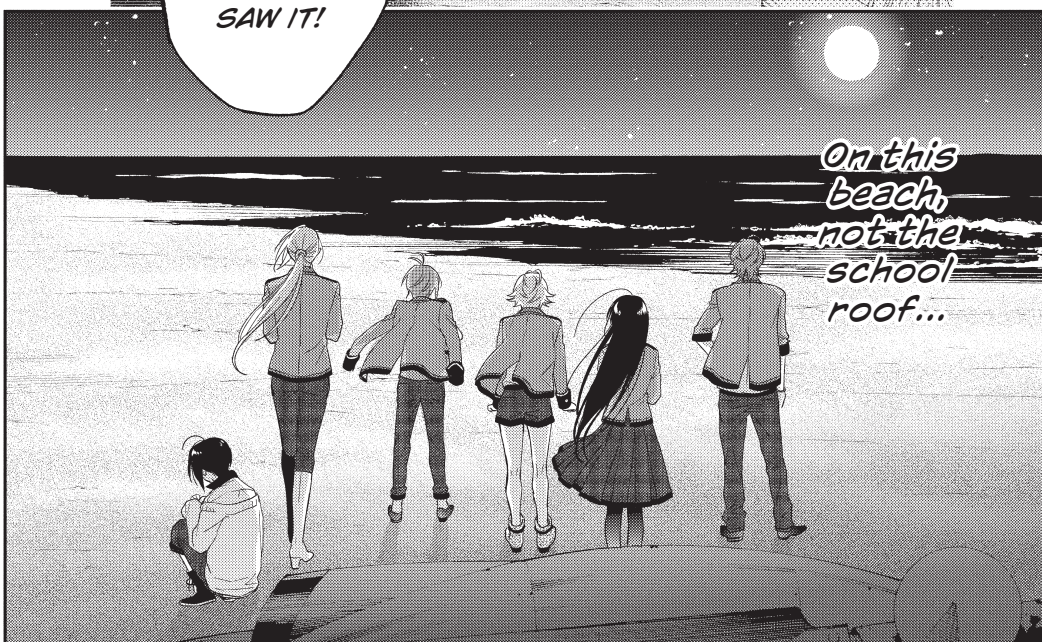
SO!
HERE WE ARE!!
This is...

the beach where I saw that star ten years ago...

FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 2

OH...
WELL!
WHY DIDN'T I EVER THINK OF THIS MYSELF?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEARCH FOR SOME-THING,




YOU SHOULD LOOK IN THE PLACE YOU LAST SAW IT!
On this beach, not the school roof...

The Pretty Boy Detective Club!!

The rumors don't do them justice.

But, middle school kids in a helicopter?

and who was that pilot?

Still...

To think there's a group with crazy resources like these at my school...

TH—

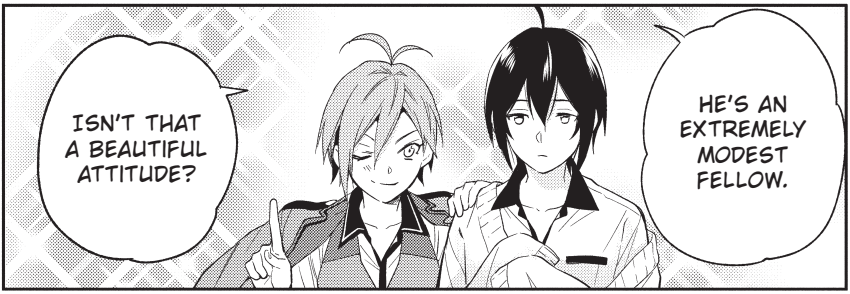
THANK YOU, YUBIWA.

YOU... MUST BE REALLY RICH.

...

huh? what'd he say?

HA HA HA
SOSAKU SAID HE'S JUST LUCKY.
HE SAYS HE JUST HAPPENED TO BE BORN INTO A WEALTHY FAMILY.


HE'S AN EXTREMELY MODEST FELLOW.
ISN'T THAT A BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDE?

NOW THEN, YOUNG DOJIMA.
WHERE-ABOUTS WAS YOUR MISSING STAR?

UM...
AND
I'M EVEN LUCKIER TO HAVE MET HIM.
GOOD FORTUNE IS A BEAUTIFUL MIRACLE.
Uh...
I'm not so sure.

OH
UM,
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE ...?
IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO...
I can't remember !!
DO YOU KNOW, FOR INSTANCE,
WHICH CONSTELLATIONS IT WAS BETWEEN?
OR PERHAPS THE EXACT TIME YOU SAW IT?
UMM ...
THE TRIP WAS TO CELEBRATE MY BIRTHDAY,
SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN THIS TIME OF YEAR...
HMM, I SEE.
SUMMER CONSTELLATIONS ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM WINTER ONES.
THAT IS FORTUNATE INDEED.

AND IF YOU INSIST,

IF WE FIND THIS NEW STAR OF YOUNG DOJIMA'S,

THERE WILL BE ONE MORE CONSTELLATION IN THE SKY!

I WILL ALLOW YOU TO NAME IT "SOTOIN," AFTER ME.

...he sure is enjoying himself...

Huh?

One more constellation...?

UH, SOTOIN.

DO YOU THINK EVERY STAR BELONGS TO A CONSTELLATION?

DON'T THEY?

OF COURSE NOT !!!

This kid is an idiot!

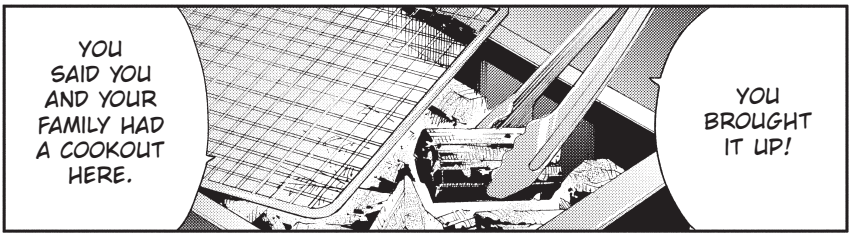
UNFORTU-NATELY, MY MIND IS UNTRAINED—
BUT MY EYE IS NOT.
I'M MANABU THE AESTHETE, LOVER OF BEAUTY.
The "Aesthete"?
...
HEY !!
AND I'M NAGAHIRO THE ORATOR, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL VOICE.
AH, HYOTA, ALWAYS A CHILD AT HEART.
THE PARAGON OF OUR CLUB.
SPLASH
hi DOJI!
SPLASH
SO SINCE YOU'RE PRETTY AND YOU'RE BOYS, THAT MAKES YOU THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB?

OH, NO.
THAT WOULD NEVER DO.
THE THIRD RULE OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB:
"BE A DETECTIVE."
!

YOUNG DOJIMA.
YOU MAY NOT RECALL MUCH,
BUT SURELY YOU AT LEAST RECALL IF YOU WERE FACING THE SEA OR THE HILLS?
UM, I THINK ...
IT WAS THE SEA.
I was playing in the surf, like Mr. Bare-Legs...
EXCEL-LENT!
THEN WE'LL BEGIN OUR SEARCH THERE.
TIME TO SET UP THE TELESCOPE.
I'LL HELP YOU, NAGA-HIRO.
...SO I'M TO TAKE THE LEAD ON THIS?
ROGER.
Hm? Yubiwa's gone...
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
HEY, DOJIMA!

HELP ME GET THIS READY.
FUKUROI !!
CLANG
THE BARBE-CUE!
GET WHAT... IS ALL THAT?!
C'MON, KID, IT'S OBVIOUS.

Who are these people?!
"Arrangements" means helicopter, "getting ready" means barbecue...
WHOA
B-
BARBECUE ?!

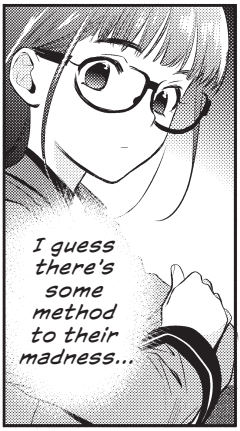

YOU SAID YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAD A COOKOUT HERE.
YOU BROUGHT IT UP!

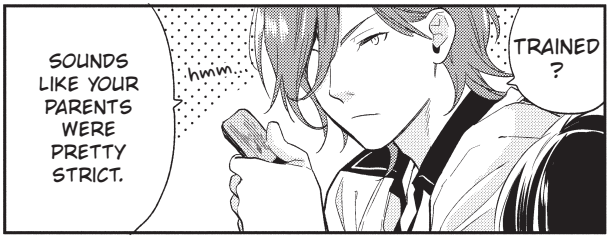
SO WHEN MR. BARE-LEGS WAS SPLASHING AROUND LIKE HE WAS IN A MUSIC VIDEO,
hi Doji!
WAS THAT A RECREATION OF THE "SWIMMING" PART?

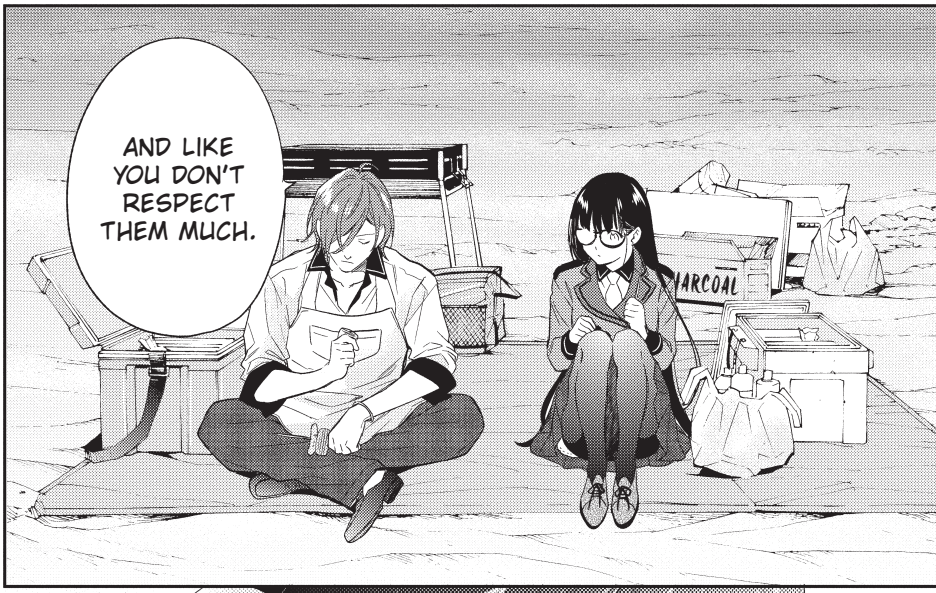
OH...
I SAID THAT?
Are they planning to recreate the whole trip?

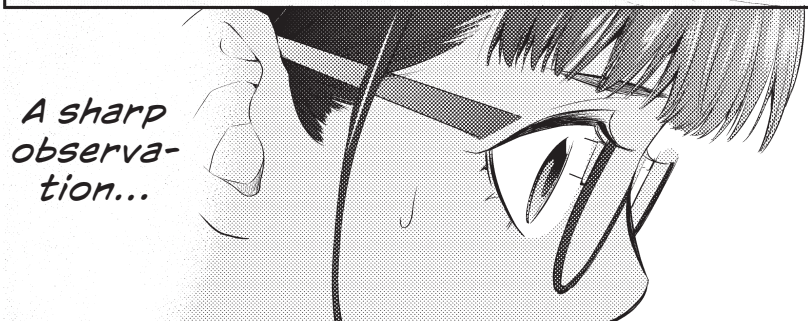
SEEING HIM REMINDED YOU WHICH WAY YOU WERE FACING WHEN YOU SAW THE STAR, DIDN'T IT?

"IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU DON'T EAT"—THAT'S HOW MY PARENTS TRAINED ME.
WELL, LOOK AT THE OBEDIENT LITTLE HELPER.
CLANG
OK, I'LL HELP.


I guess there's some method to their madness...


SOUNDS LIKE YOUR PARENTS WERE PRETTY STRICT.
hmm...
TRAINED ?


AND LIKE YOU DON'T RESPECT THEM MUCH.
CHARCOAL

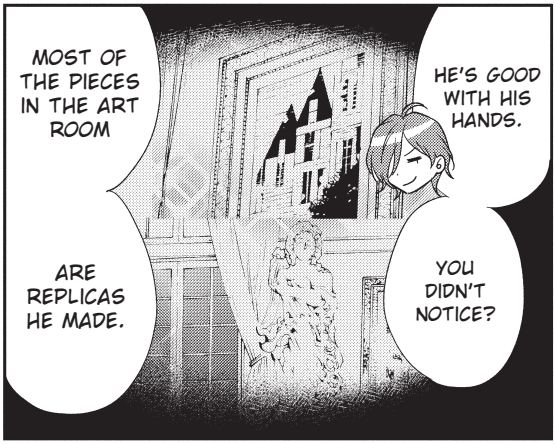

A sharp observa-tion...

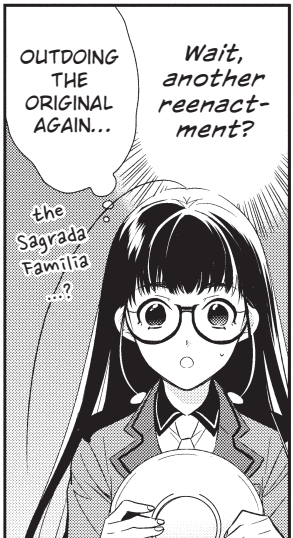
IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO BE A REBEL LIKE YOU.
GASP
...GOOD POINT.
RUSTLE
NO WAY I COULD SPEND TEN YEARS
SEARCHING FOR A STAR THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN EXIST.
...
He's not mad?
Fukuroi is...
so good at everything, and he looks more like a lunchroom worker than a delinquent.
BANG
IDIOT!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HUH?
WHAT?!
DON'T SKEWER THE MEAT SO CARELESSLY!
EEK
EACH PIECE HAS TO BE SKEWERED JUST RIGHT!
I-
I'M SORRY...
He's furious...
JUST GO SET THE TABLE!
DON'T LAY ANOTHER FINGER ON THE FOOD!!
The reenactment is outdoing the original.
...DOUBT IT MATTERS HOW YOU SKEWER THE MEAT.
MUMBLE
HUH?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
NOTHING!
Set the table, huh?
RUSTLE
With paper plates and disposable chopsticks, I bet...

Wrong!!
BUT AREN'T THESE HISTORICAL TREASURES OR SOMETHING?
NO WAY.
HE MADE 'EM.
MUMBLE
SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO USE THESE...
A WASTE?
IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO USE 'EM.
huh ?
MADE THEM?
JAB
JAB

SPRINKLE
Sosaku Yubiwa.


HE'S GOOD WITH HIS HANDS.
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?
MOST OF THE PIECES IN THE ART ROOM
ARE REPLICAS HE MADE.


Wait, another reenactment?
OUTDOING THE ORIGINAL AGAIN...
the Sagrada Familia...?

BUT HE REALLY PREFERS METICULOUS CREATIVE WORK.
WITH THE FAMILY BUSINESS AND ALL, HE PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN THE FINANCIAL WORLD,
MAKING SUCH GOOD COPIES MUST'VE BEEN EVEN HARDER THAN GETTING THE ORIGINALS ...
I DIDN'T NOTICE ...
SOSAKU THE ARTISTE, CREATOR OF BEAUTY!
THAT'S HIM.
EARTH TO DOJIMA.
I'M GONNA START COOKING NOW.
SOSAKU
THE ARTISTE...

...UM, FUKUROI?
HOW SERIOUS ARE YOU GUYS?
HUH?
WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
YOU JUST MET ME, I'M NOTHING TO YOU,
BUT YOU'RE DOING ALL THIS FOR ME. WHY?
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT'S JUST A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.
IS THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB
JUST SOME KIND OF
HOBBY FOR BORED RICH KIDS?
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE HELICOPTER AND EVERYTHING, BUT...
I FEEL LIKE YOU THINK MY PROBLEMS ARE SILLY, AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
...

NOT EVEN FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE WITH GREAT CHARACTER DESIGN WHO OPERATE ON A GRAND SCALE.
ME AND MY PROBLEMS AREN'T A TOY, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE LIKE THOSE PEOPLE WHO SAY, "KIDS THESE DAYS PLAY SO MANY VIDEO GAMES, THEY THINK PEOPLE WILL COME BACK TO LIFE IF THEY HIT RESET."
WE'RE NOT CHARACTERS IN SOME ANIME, YA KNOW.
HA.
BO-RING.
BBQ tastes the same no matter what—
POISON TASTER?
YOU'RE THE POISON TASTER.
NOW EAT!

BWAGH

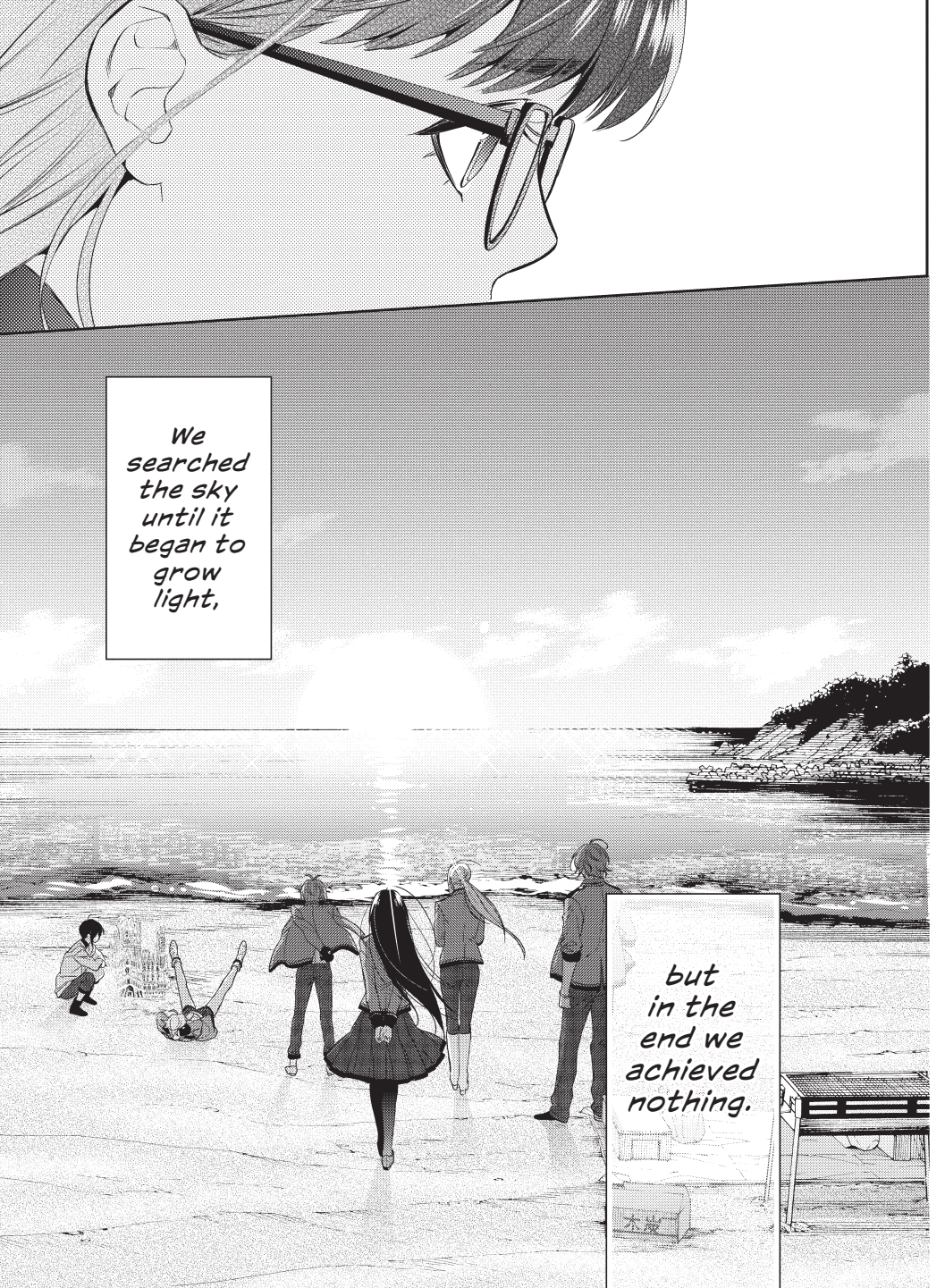
TOOOEY!!

NO WAY.
SHOCK
ARE YOU CRYING?!
DRIP ポロ
DRIP ポロ
NO, I JUST GOT SOME MEAT JUICE IN MY EYE!
SOUNDS PAINFUL... ARE YOU OKAY?
CHOMP
YOINK ひょいっ
WHAT A WASTE...
もぐ MUNCH
MMM.
もぐ MUNCH
NOW THAT'S GOOD!!
LICK ぺろ
NO ONE DOES IT LIKE ME.
WHA?!

NO PROBLEM.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S SANITARY?
BUT, IT WAS JUST ON THE GROUND ...
NO I AM NOT!
NO WAY!
AWW, ARE YOU THINKING THAT WAS A SECOND-HAND KISS OR SOMETHING?
HM?
WASTING FOOD BOTHERS ME A LOT MORE THAN A FEW GERMS.
I USED TO LIVE OFF FOOD OTHER PEOPLE DROPPED ON THE GROUND.
SO NOW I'M MICHIRU THE EPICURE, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PALATE.
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE YOUR MOUTH AND LOOK AT THAT IDIOT.

THAT'S ONE SERIOUS IDIOT.
hm?
it's back-wards
I was looking that way on purpose, Nagahiro.
were you, now...
HE'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN ALL THIS STARTED WITH YOU.
EVEN IF YOU ASKED HIM TO DROP THE CASE, I DOUBT HE'D STOP LOOKING FOR THAT STAR.
THAT'S HIS BRAND OF SERIOUS-NESS—
AND HIS AESTHETIC.

IF OUR LEADER IS SERIOUS ABOUT IT, WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
NO ONE THINKS YOUR PROBLEMS ARE SILLY.
IN FACT,
I THINK THE PERSON WHO LOOKS DOWN ON YOUR DREAMS THE MOST
MIGHT ACTUALLY BE YOU.


We searched the sky until it began to grow light,
but in the end we achieved nothing.

He's a demon, not an angel...
SCHWAM
ドッ
...
CRUMBLE
ぐしゃあ...
Well, you could call the child genius's Sagrada Familia an achievement.
BAM!
バキッ!
Did I really expect to dramatically discover the star I'd spent ten years searching for on the very last night?
Though ...
Encountering the Pretty Boy Detective Club was dramatic enough.

In any case,

ten years' worth of dizzying, dreamlike days end here—

UH...

GUYS!

UM.

TH...

THANK YOU!

WE DIDN'T FIND THE STAR, BUT—

WAIT!

Huh ...?

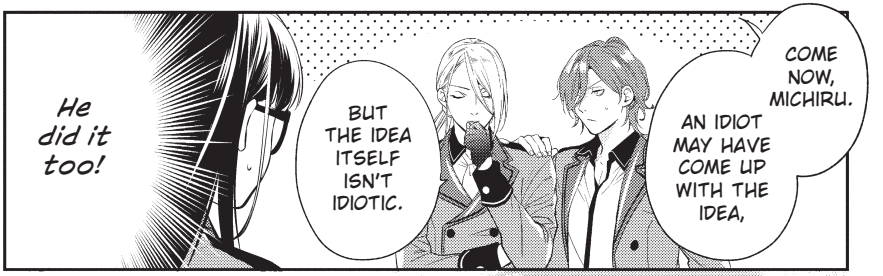
IT'S TOO EARLY TO GIVE UP!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DEAR LEADER?

YOUNG DOJIMA'S PROMISE TAKES EFFECT WHEN SHE TURNS FOURTEEN, CORRECT?
TELL US, WHAT TIME OF DAY WERE YOU BORN?
What time ?!
UM... IN THE EVENING, I THINK?
I FEEL LIKE MY GRANDMA SAID SO ONCE...
Really?
BUT, HANG ON...
YES!
BAM
WE'RE IN OVERTIME UNTIL EVENING!
He's really splitting hairs!

THE CLOCK WILL RUN OUT BEFORE THE STARS COME OUT AGAIN.
WE'RE TALKING EVENING HERE, RIGHT?
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND BY NO GOOD, I MEAN GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
EVEN IF YOUR LOGIC IS SOUND, IT'S NO GOOD.
HAAH
LIKE THE SUN AND MOON!
YOU CAN SEE CERTAIN CELESTIAL BODIES DURING THE DAYTIME, CORRECT?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, YOUNG DOJIMA!
TSK
TSK
...
THE SUN...? THE MOON...?
Just plain no good...
It's no good...
SLUMP
ズーン
Um, Mr. Vice President?!
I can't persuade this boy.

He called the president an idiot ...?!
WHUP
ポン
COME ON, NAGAHIRO.
YOU'RE NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS IDIOTIC IDEA, ARE YOU?


He did it too!
BUT THE IDEA ITSELF ISN'T IDIOTIC.
COME NOW, MICHIRU.
AN IDIOT MAY HAVE COME UP WITH THE IDEA,

I HAVE A THEORY—
AND I'D LIKE TO LOOK INTO IT.
SQUIRT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NAGAHIRO ?
RUB
ぬり
RUB
ぬり
I DOUBT WE CAN SEE ANY STARS IN THE DAYTIME.

MS. DOJIMA.
AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME,
PLEASE INSIST YOUR PARENTS GO ALONG WITH OUR LEADER'S PROPOSAL.
AND AFTER SCHOOL, WOULD YOU MIND JOINING US AGAIN?
I BELIEVE ...
WE MAY HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.
Leave it to Nagahiro the Orator.
So persua-sive...

IF YOU LOOK PAST HIS LOLICON, A GUY LIKE NAGAHIRO IS A RARE FIND THESE DAYS.
HA HA HA,
DON'T BE AFRAID!
I can't look past that!

THIS GUY MAY LOOK MORE RESPECTABLE THAN US,
DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH, DOJI.
AH HA HA
BUT HIS GIRLFRIEND'S IN FIRST GRADE.

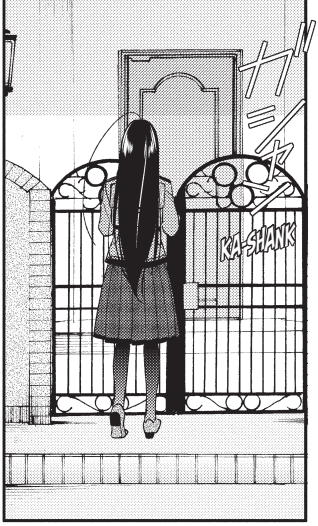
they said something about that yesterday, too.
FIRST GRADE?!

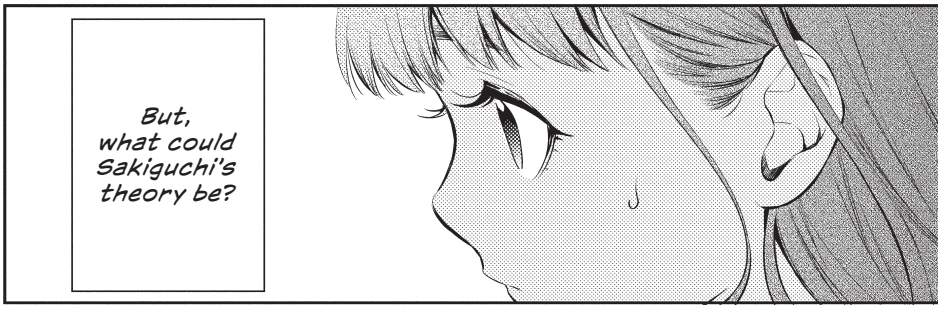
BUT...
STOP IT, YOU TWO...
SHE'S MY FIANCÉE, NOT MY GIRLFRIEND.
HE MAY BE RIGHT TO SAY YOU SHOULDN'T EXPECT MUCH.

瞳島
DOJIMA
SHRRRRRR
My parents were easy to convince.
Or maybe they were just too fed up with my shenanigans to resist.
In any case, the deadline was extended to sunset.

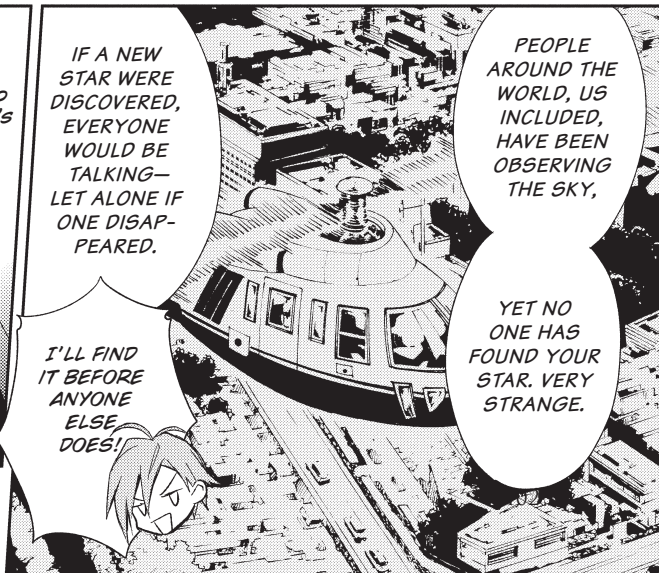
WHEW,
I SHOULD JUST MAKE THE WARNING BELL.

チッ TICK
チッ TICK


ガシャン
KA-SHANK


But, what could Sakiguchi's theory be?

...It's no good, I don't get it!
Is that related to Sakiguchi's theory?


IF A NEW STAR WERE DISCOVERED, EVERYONE WOULD BE TALKING— LET ALONE IF ONE DISAP-PEARED.
PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, US INCLUDED, HAVE BEEN OBSERVING THE SKY,
YET NO ONE HAS FOUND YOUR STAR. VERY STRANGE.
I'LL FIND IT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DOES!

LOOK, LOOK SO HARD YOU BURN A HOLE RIGHT THROUGH!

LOOK AT HER, LADS!

DON'T YOU AGREE THAT HER EYES ARE BEAUTIFUL?

I think I'll go get them after all...

...

WHIP

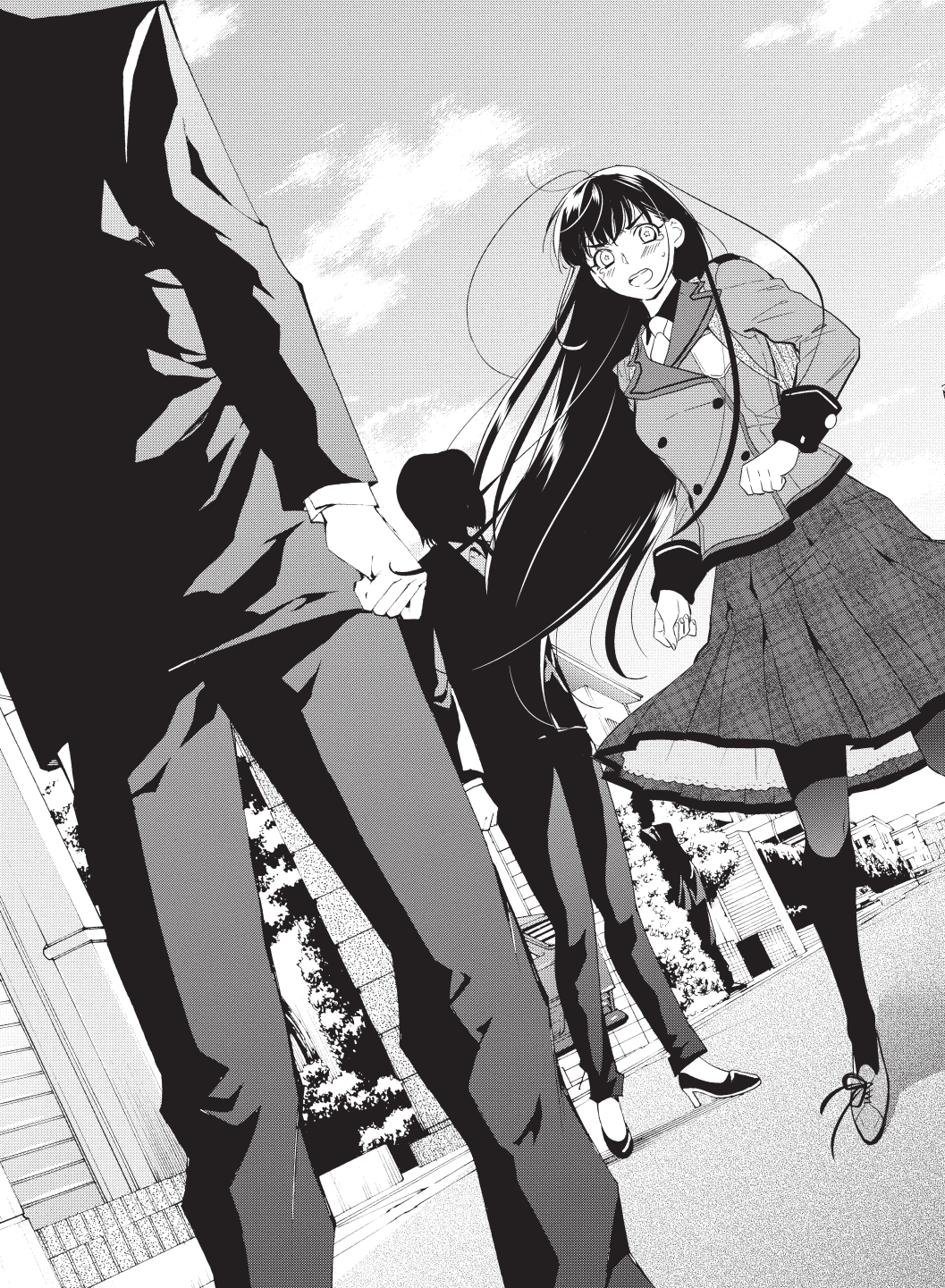
?!!
Is someone there?
No way ...
I'm being followed ?!!
...

What?
Why?
I'm just an ordinary person...
Who would need to tail me?
Wait.
Calm down.
You're imagining things.
ピタ
PAUSE

What do I do?
I don't have a personal alarm...
Or a phone...
No, I'm not!
CLENCH
DASH
I've got to get to school !!!

TUP
Crap!
Crap
TUP
TUP
Crap
Crap!!!
TUP

What the hell is going on?!!



PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

What ?!
What ?!
Who the hell are these people?!
SKREEE
?!!
GASP

GET ON!!
PIRELLI

FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 3

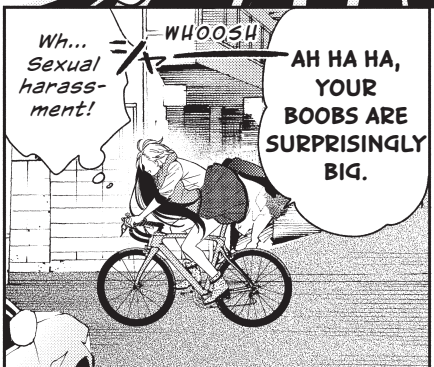
CLENCH
Here goes!
HUH.
QUICK !!
H-
HOW AM I SUP-POSED TO-
HUH?
Hope this works !!!
SNAM
SHNK
ZIP IT!

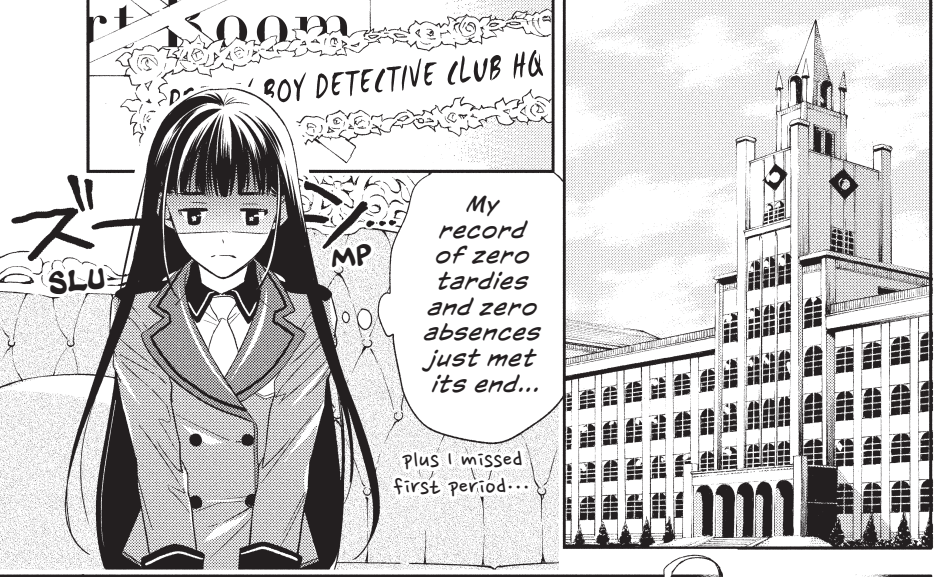
SHOOM
So fast...
Hyota of the beautiful legs.

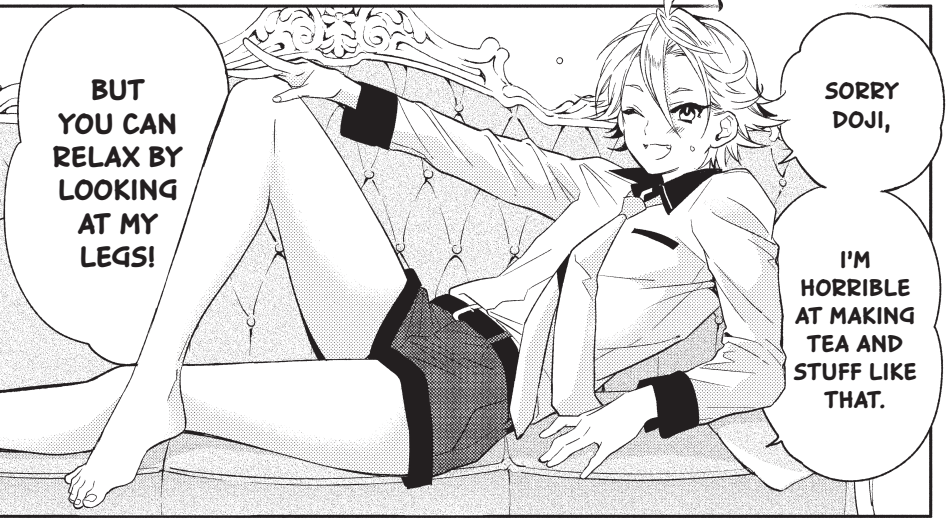
He is the ace of the track team...

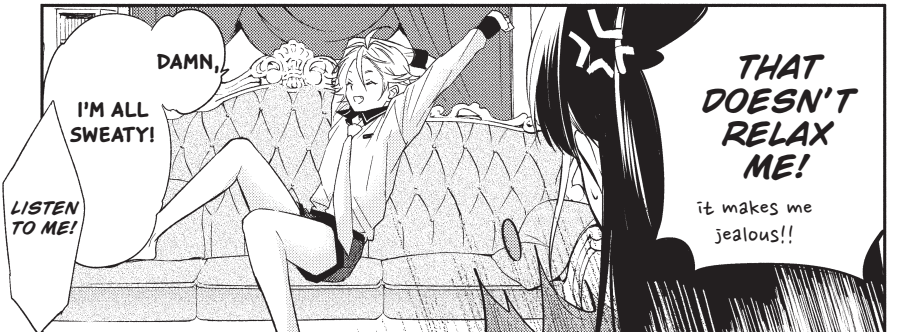
I guess those legs aren't just pretty—

DOJI!




BOY DETECTIVE CLUB HQ
SLU
MP
My record of zero tardies and zero absences just met its end...
Plus I missed first period...


BUT YOU CAN RELAX BY LOOKING AT MY LEGS!
SORRY DOJI,
I'M HORRIBLE AT MAKING TEA AND STUFF LIKE THAT.

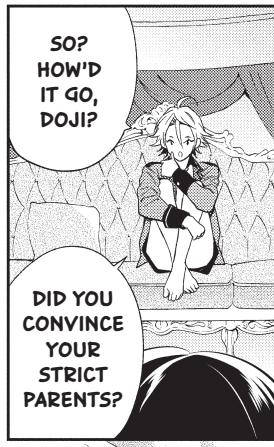

DAMN,
I'M ALL SWEATY!
LISTEN TO ME!
THAT DOESN'T RELAX ME!
it makes me jealous!!

STRIP
ぬぎ
HEY!
WAIT!
YOU CAN'T JUST STRIP DOWN IN FRONT OF A GIRL!
...He...
He's got a surprisingly nice body...
despite appear-ances...
PEEKING

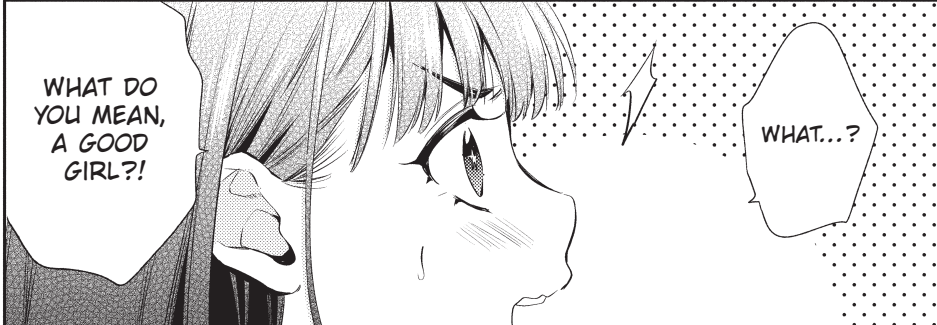
O-OK.
WHAT-EVER.
or just Hyo!!
CALL ME HYOTA.
U-UM,
I mean,
ASHI-KAGA.
MR. BARE LE—
AHEM!
WHY DID YOU RESCUE ME...?
GLEAM
HELPING PEOPLE IS THE MISSION OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB!
Are the people tailing me somehow connected to his theory?
SAKI-GUCHI?
I'll ignore that nick-name.
But,
YOU CAN ASK NAGAHI-ROLICON FOR THE DETAILS.
I JUST DID WHAT HE SAID.
I'm sure he'll show up during break

YEAH?
I SEE,
I SEE.

NOT EXACTLY ...
BUT THEY DID GIVE ME MORE TIME.
I THINK THEY'RE JUST WORN OUT BY MY ANTICS.

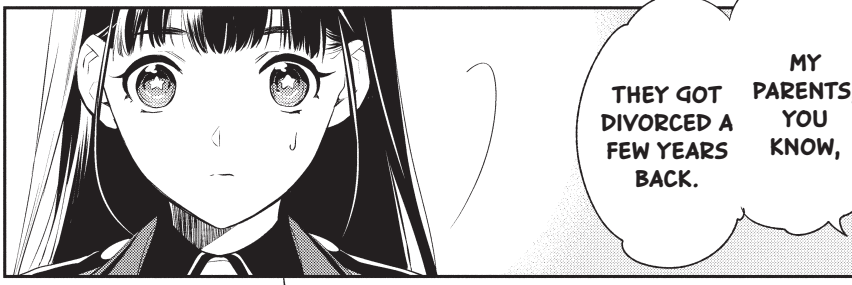

SO? HOW'D IT GO, DOJI?
DID YOU CONVINCE YOUR STRICT PARENTS?

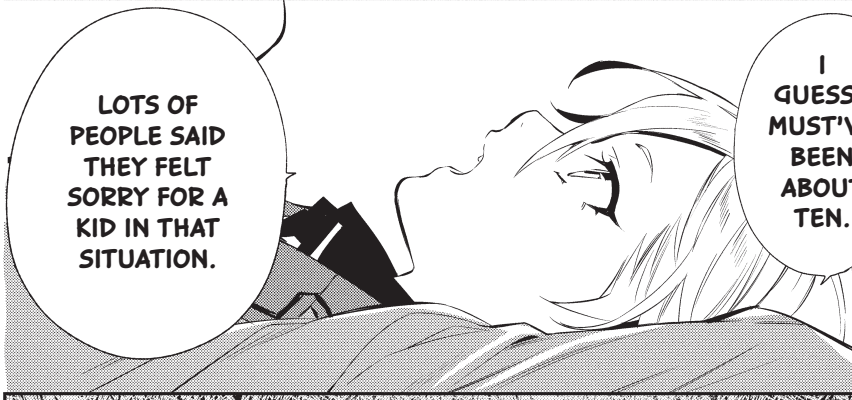
ぽん PAT
SO YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL!
ぽん PAT


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A GOOD GIRL?!
WHAT...?

I'd shred it in a second
I MEAN, LIKE, I'D NEVER KEEP A PROMISE LIKE THAT.
IT'S MY LIFE, AND I DON'T LIKE MY PARENTS TELLING ME WHAT TO DO WITH IT, YOU KNOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THEM.
SO WHY NOT GO ON CHASING YOUR DREAM OF BEING AN ASTRO-NAUT?
ぽふっ
FWOP
JUST LIKE I PLAN TO GO ON WEARING SHORTS FOR MY WHOLE LIFE.
...

...

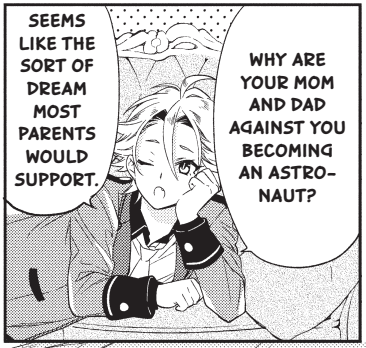

MY PARENTS, YOU KNOW,
THEY GOT DIVORCED A FEW YEARS BACK.

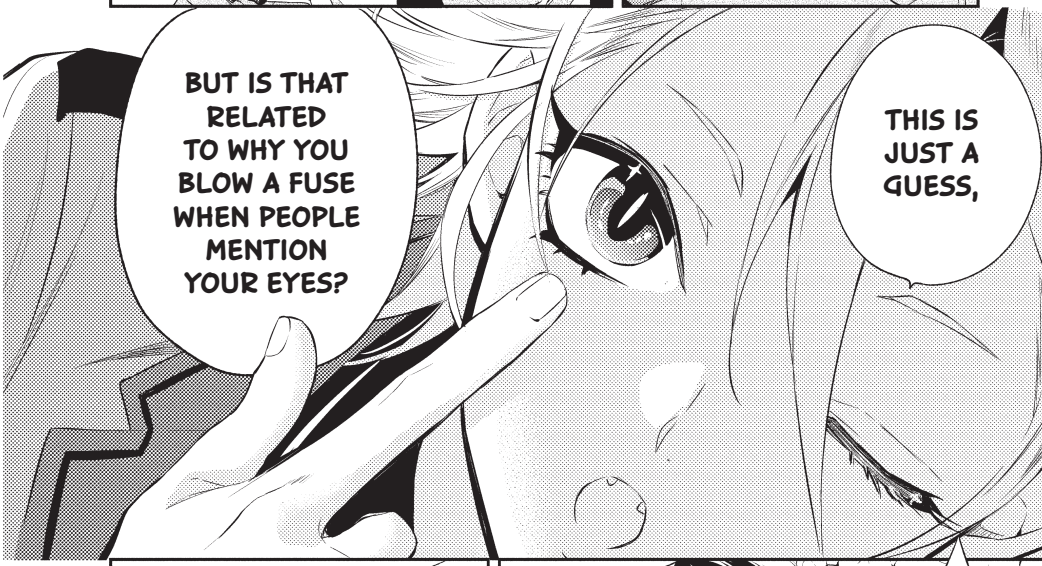

I GUESS I MUST'VE BEEN ABOUT TEN.
LOTS OF PEOPLE SAID THEY FELT SORRY FOR A KID IN THAT SITUATION.

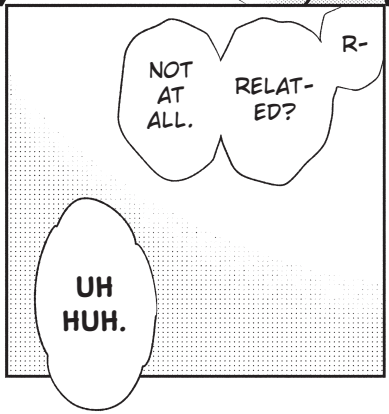
BUT I WASN'T SO SURE I LIKED THAT.
PEOPLE ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE THEY LOOK DOWN ON THE CHILDREN OF SINGLE PARENTS.

GRIN ニコッ♥
SO IF YOU'RE GONNA GIVE UP YOUR DREAM,
YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE IT UP ON YOUR OWN, YOU KNOW?
SURE, YOU HAVE A POINT, HYOTA,
BUT IT'S NOT SO CUT AND DRIED, IS IT?
I JUST DIDN'T WANT THEM TO USE ME
AS A PRETEXT FOR SUCH A BIG DECISION.
CLENCH ぎゅっ
"If you really believe in your dream, it will come true."
Wise words, but only for winners.
This is what a loser would say:
"I lost out by believing in my dream, and I'm glad I gave up when I did."
Can I honestly say I'm not using the promise I made to my parents as a pretext
for abandoning my overblown dream of becoming an astronaut?

DON'T MOST PARENTS WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE AN OFFICE WORKER OR SOMETHING?
SURE, MAYBE...
BUT IT'S OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY.
HMM.


SEEMS LIKE THE SORT OF DREAM MOST PARENTS WOULD SUPPORT.
WHY ARE YOUR MOM AND DAD AGAINST YOU BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT?


BUT IS THAT RELATED TO WHY YOU BLOW A FUSE WHEN PEOPLE MENTION YOUR EYES?
THIS IS JUST A GUESS,


R-
NOT AT ALL.
RELATED?
UH HUH.

Guess he wasn't just looking up my skirt after all.
!!

DOJIMA !!
TUP
TUP
TUP
BAM
YOU OKAY, KID?

WHAT'S SO AWESOME ABOUT BEING CHASED AROUND BY A BUNCH OF ADULTS?
IDIOT!
FLICK
GULP

DOIN' AWE-SOME!
They're so intimidating when they're all together ...
RIGHT ON!!
ばっちり!!

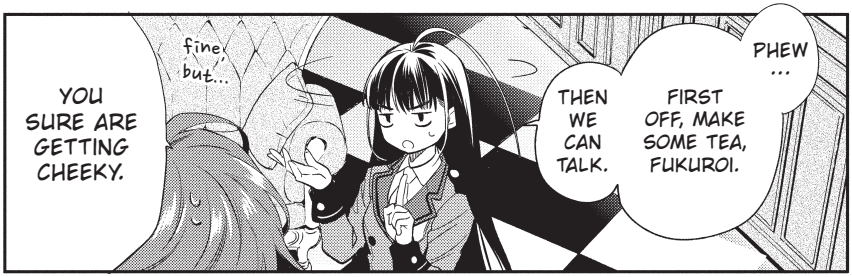
He's so close...
STOP BULL-SHITTING !!
THRUST

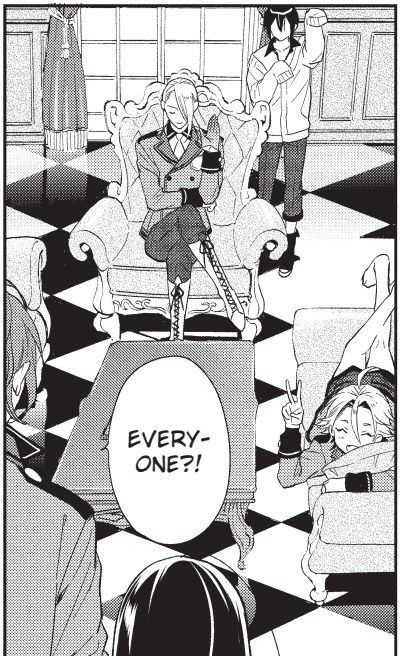
I'M SURE THOSE PEOPLE WEREN'T THAT DANGEROUS.
NO, THEY WERE PRETTY BAD.
I-I'M FINE.
I MEAN, HYOTA CAME TO MY RESCUE.

WELL?
ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO SAYS YOUTH CRIME IS INCREASING EVEN THOUGH THE NUMBER OF CASES IS FALLING?
dammit...
MUMBLE
REALLY THOUGH, WHAT'S WITH THE SATIRE?

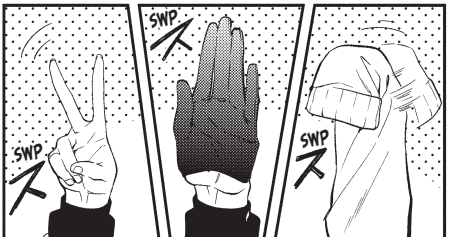
that sounds way more danger-ous!!
You've been kidnapped three times?!

I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED THREE TIMES,
BUT THOSE CRIMINALS DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PEOPLE CHASING YOU.


YOU SURE ARE GETTING CHEEKY.
fine, but...
THEN WE CAN TALK.
FIRST OFF, MAKE SOME TEA, FUKUROI.
PHEW ...


EVERY-ONE?!

TEA?
ANYONE?


SWP
SWP
SWP

He'll be here after school

AH.

IT'S ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR DOJIMA.

HE'S OUR KOGORO.

WAIT!

WHERE'S SOTOIN?

GLANCE きょろ

I thought it was awfully quiet...

GLANCE きょろ

So the Pretty Boy Detective Club got its name from Edogawa Rampo's Boy Detective Club novels after all.

?

Like Kogoro Akechi?

KOGORO?

SIP コク

THANKS, FUKUROI.

TEA'S READY.

DON'T TELL ME YOU...

TWITCH ピク

I've got a bad feeling...

NO...

TWITCH ピク

PTOOEY!!!

STOP SPITTING EVERYTHING OUT!!!
enough already!

He's hard to read.
He liked it the first time?
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE
BUT NOW I'M GETTING PISSED!
I WAS FLATTERED THE FIRST TIME,

YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN FROM THE START?
NAGA-HIRO.
NO...
WHY ARE THOSE WEIRDOS AFTER HER?
ALL DOJIMA DID WAS LOOK AT SOME STARS.
BUT I DON'T GET IT.
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
He's not denying I'm a grouch...
RIGHT?
WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM CHASING A GROUCH LIKE ME?
I ONLY REALIZED THE DANGER AFTER I STARTED INVESTIGATING.
I HAD NO IDEA THINGS WOULD FALL APART THIS FAST.
WHEN WE DROPPED HER OFF,
WE DISCOVERED THE TERRIBLE TRUTH.
AS YUBIWA AND I WERE LOOKING INTO THE EVENTS OF TEN YEARS AGO,

...YES.
THE TERRIBLE TRUTH?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GATHER ROUND.
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, SO PLEASE HEAR ME OUT.

TO SEARCH FOR A STAR

The heavens are under constant watch.

Astronomers, scholars, professionals, amateurs ...

is already being carried out by people all across the world.

Simply put, your beautiful search for a star

YET IN THE COURSE OF TEN YEARS, NO ONE HAS FOUND YOUR STAR.

LOVES YOUNG GIRLS.

TYPICAL NAGAHI-ROLICON!

ONE-STROKE PENALTY, HYOTA.

AND WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I AGREE.

WE'D BE POOR DETECTIVES TO REJECT THE WITNESS'S STATEMENT SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE WAS FOUR AT THE TIME.

DOJIMA MUST'VE IMAGINED IT.

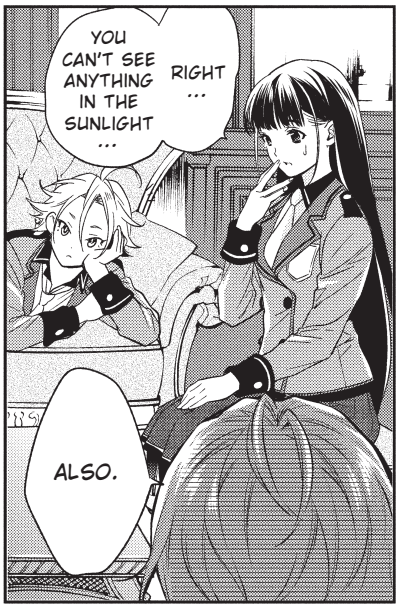
BET IT NEVER EXISTED TO BEGIN WITH.

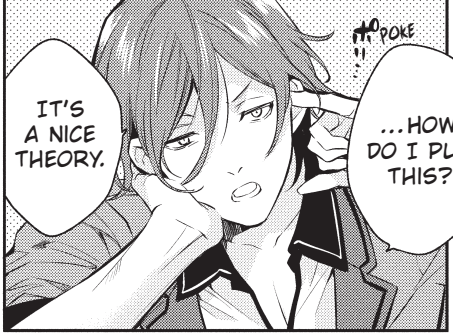
BUT IF OUR LEADER WERE HERE, HE'D SURELY SAY IT WAS NOT BEAUTIFUL, AND TOSS IT OUT.

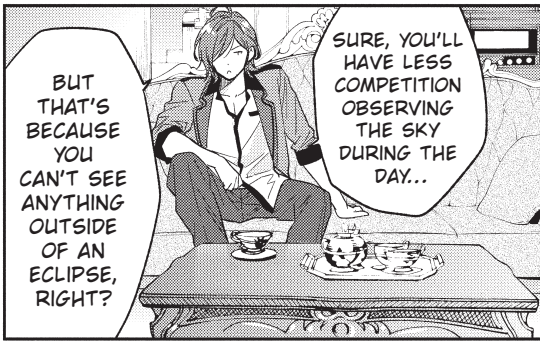
YES, THAT IS THE MOST OBVIOUS INTERPRETATION.

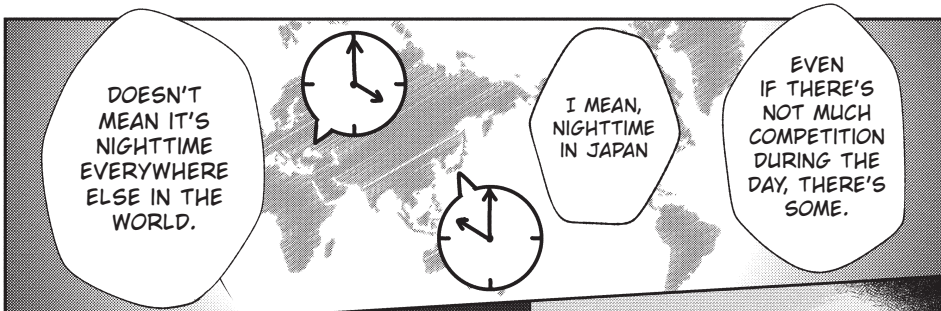
OUR LEADER'S WORDS THIS MORNING CONTAINED A HINT.
AND WHAT MIGHT IT BE?
A moment ago I said the sky is under constant watch.
The leader's ...?
But that phrase contains an error.
GASP
Could it be?
IN OTHER WORDS ...
SO THE UNIVERSE IS NOT WATCHED CONSTANTLY,
BUT RATHER FOR ONLY HALF OF EACH DAY.
INDEED.
ASTRO-NOMICAL OBSERVATION TAKES PLACE LARGELY AT NIGHT.

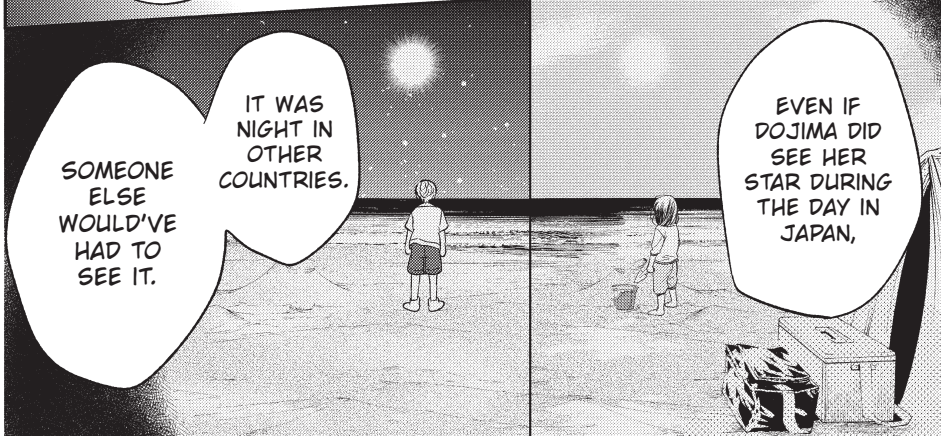
MS. DOJIMA MUST HAVE SEEN THE STAR NOT AT NIGHT,
BUT DURING THE DAYTIME.
But I was four at the time.
No way I was allowed to play on the beach at night.
Sure.
Up till now, I'd assumed you look at the stars at night.
During the daytime ...?
...So I must have seen that star during the day...


YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THE SUNLIGHT ...
RIGHT ...
ALSO.

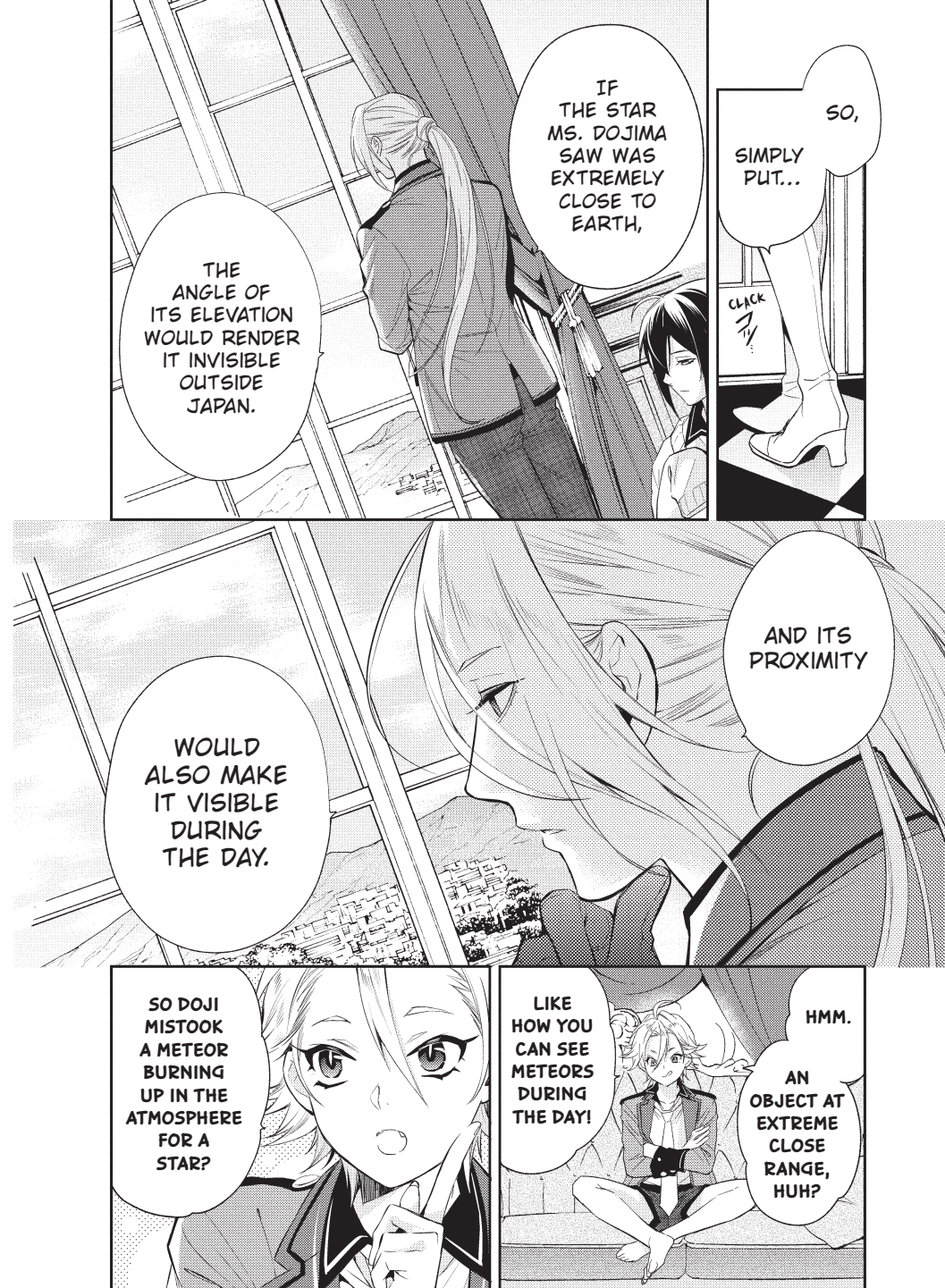

POKE
...HOW DO I PUT THIS?
IT'S A NICE THEORY.


SURE, YOU'LL HAVE LESS COMPETITION OBSERVING THE SKY DURING THE DAY...
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF AN ECLIPSE, RIGHT?


DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NIGHTTIME EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.
I MEAN, NIGHTTIME IN JAPAN
EVEN IF THERE'S NOT MUCH COMPETITION DURING THE DAY, THERE'S SOME.


SOMEONE ELSE WOULD'VE HAD TO SEE IT.
IT WAS NIGHT IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
EVEN IF DOJIMA DID SEE HER STAR DURING THE DAY IN JAPAN,

IT DEPENDS ON
WHERE SPACE BEGINS.
BUT.
NO, IT'S AN EXCELLENT POINT.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HARD STUFF LIKE ANGLES AND LATITUDES, BUT...
WHERE SPACE BEGINS?
hanh?
YOU COULD EVEN ARGUE THAT EVERYTHING BEYOND EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL CONSTITUTES OUTER SPACE.
YES. DEPENDING ON THE DEFINITION, ALTITUDES REACHABLE BY REGULAR PLANES CAN BE CONSIDERED PART OF SPACE.
This is getting complicated...
Huh?
Huh?

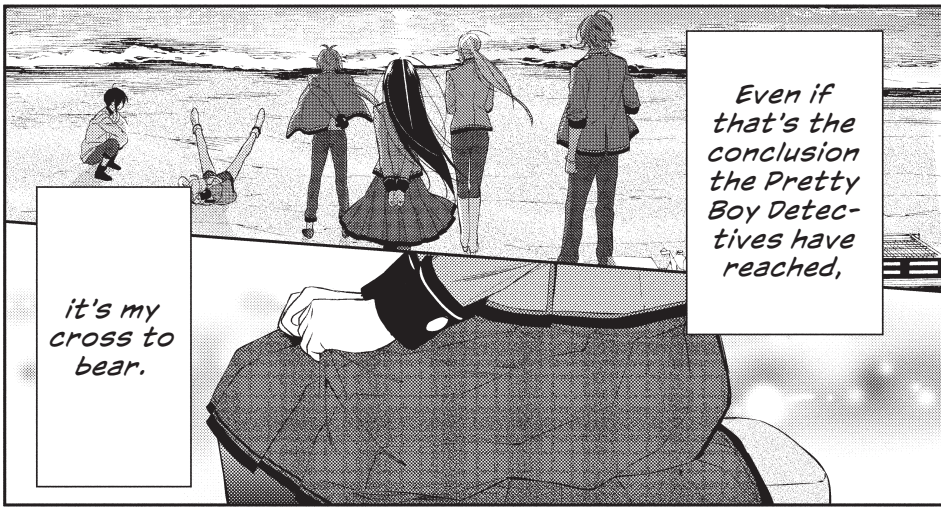

SO, SIMPLY PUT...
CLACK
IF THE STAR MS. DOJIMA SAW WAS EXTREMELY CLOSE TO EARTH,
THE ANGLE OF ITS ELEVATION WOULD RENDER IT INVISIBLE OUTSIDE JAPAN.
AND ITS PROXIMITY
WOULD ALSO MAKE IT VISIBLE DURING THE DAY.
HMM.
AN OBJECT AT EXTREME CLOSE RANGE, HUH?
LIKE HOW YOU CAN SEE METEORS DURING THE DAY!
SO DOJI MISTOOK A METEOR BURNING UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE FOR A STAR?

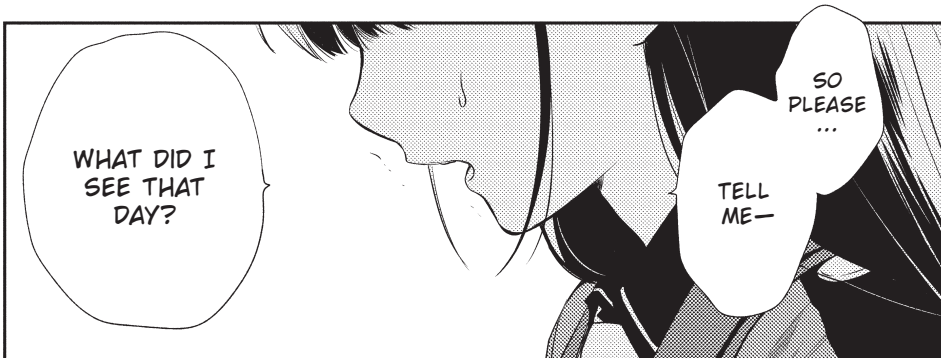
AT LAST YOU'VE INTRODUCED A REASONABLE IDEA, HYOTA.
BUT AN OBJECT ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE FROM OUTER SPACE
WOULD LIKELY BE VISIBLE AROUND THE WORLD DURING ITS DESCENT.
UM, SAKI-GUCHI.
IT'S VERY NICE OF YOU.
I'm sure he's being so roundabout because he thinks the truth will shock me.
BUT... YOU CAN BE FRANK WITH ME.
I'M READY.

I made a mistake, and wasted ten years of my life.

But even I can guess that it wasn't really a new star.

I dreamt of visiting that star,
of becoming an astronaut.

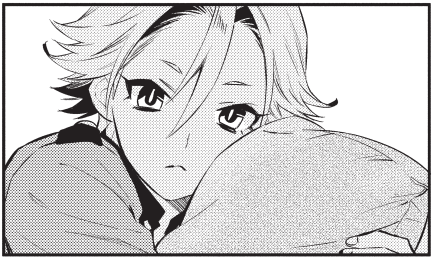

Even if that's the conclusion the Pretty Boy Detectives have reached,
it's my cross to bear.

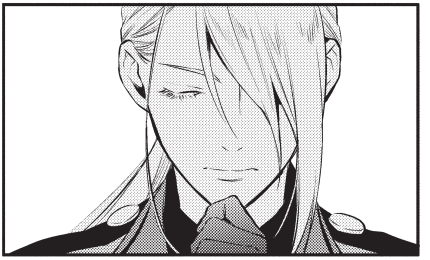

SO PLEASE ...
TELL ME—
WHAT DID I SEE THAT DAY?

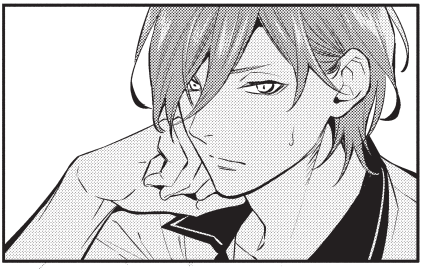
BUT A SATELLITE.
HFFF ...
NOT A STAR...
So that's all it was...
A satellite ...
ボソ...
MUMBLE
BUT NO ORDINARY SATELLITE.
Yubiwa ?!
...

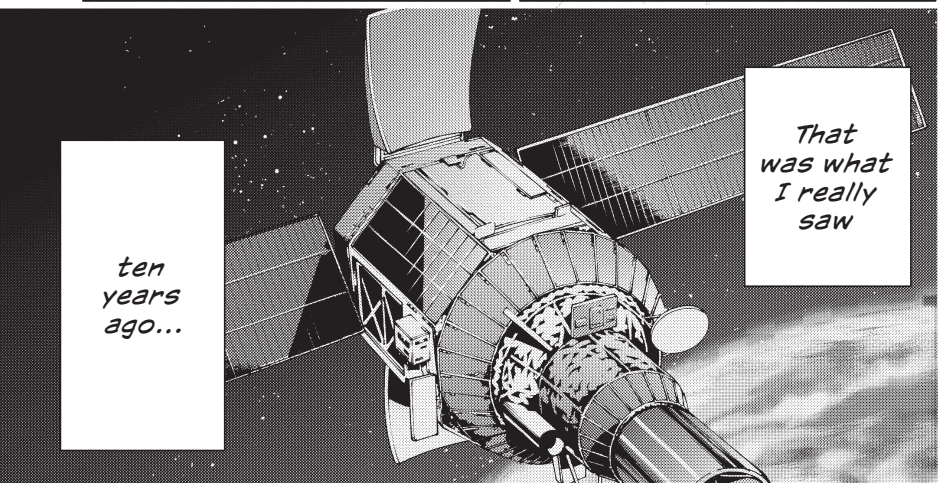
A MILITARY SATELLITE.

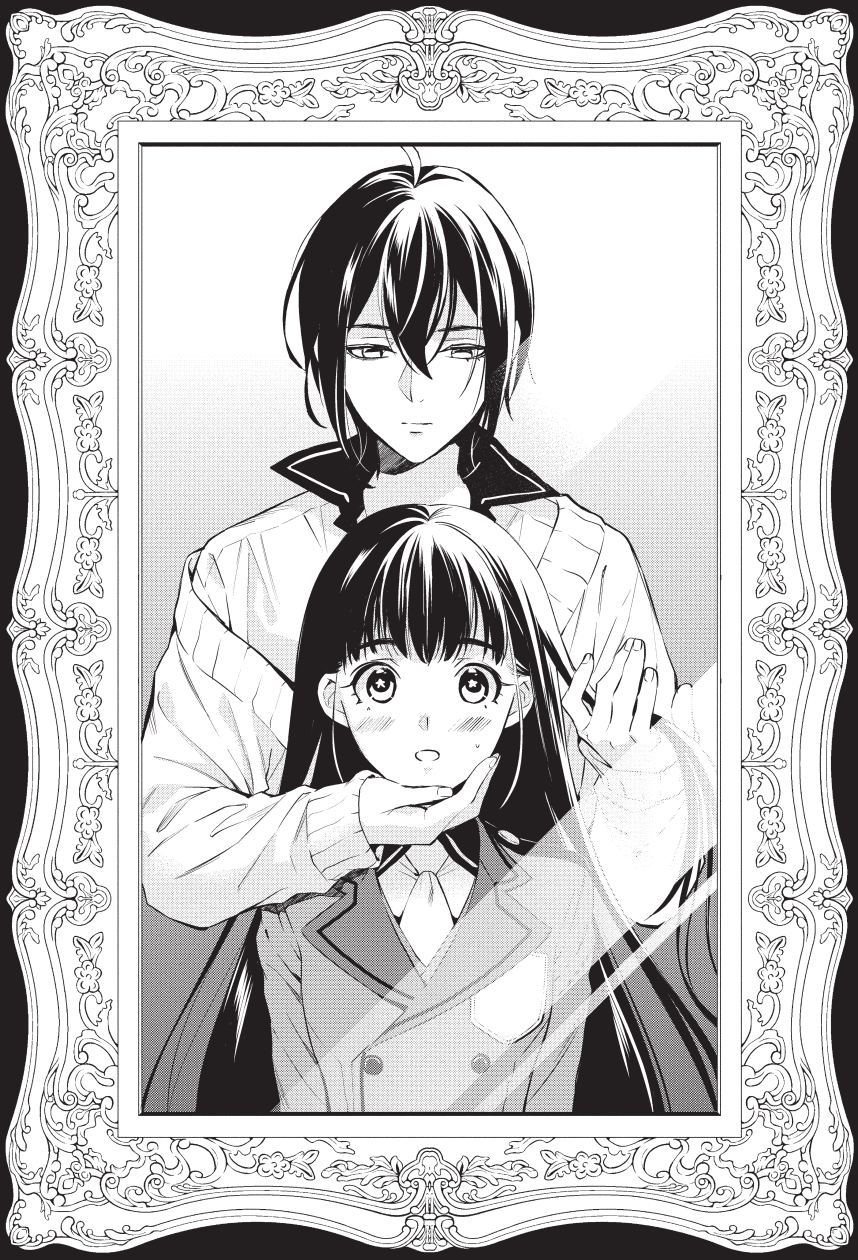
A MILITARY SATELLITE ...?



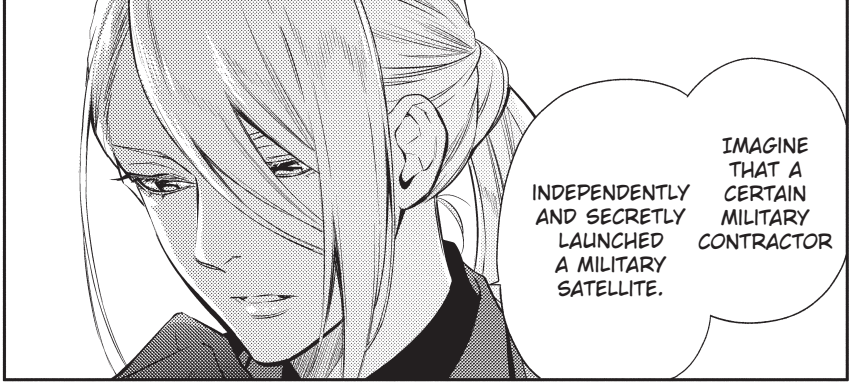




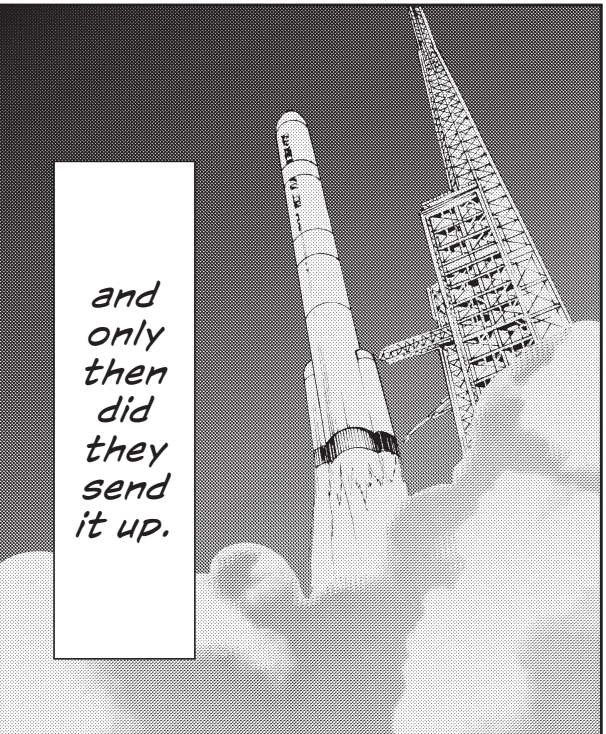

That was what I really saw
ten years ago...



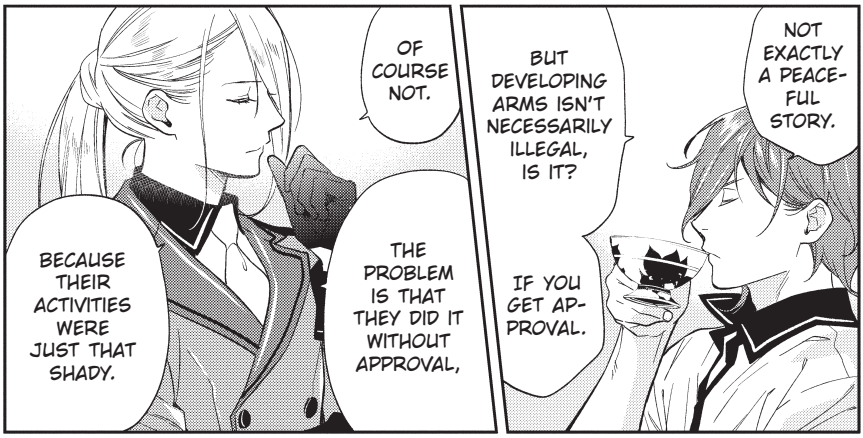
FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 4

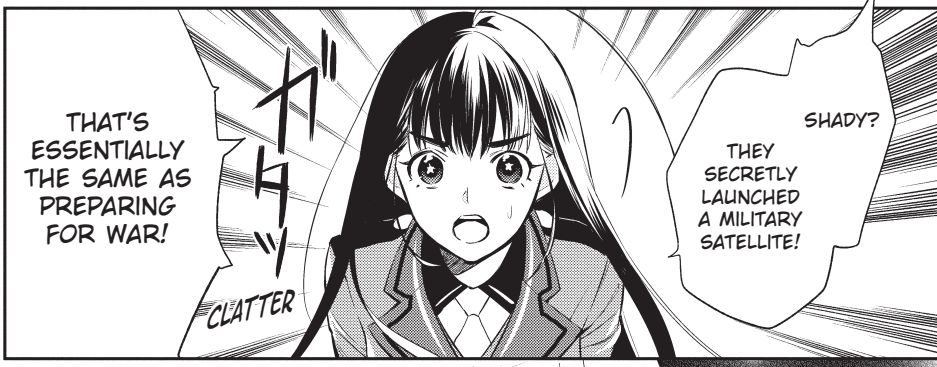

IMAGINE THAT A CERTAIN MILITARY CONTRACTOR
INDEPENDENTLY AND SECRETLY LAUNCHED A MILITARY SATELLITE.

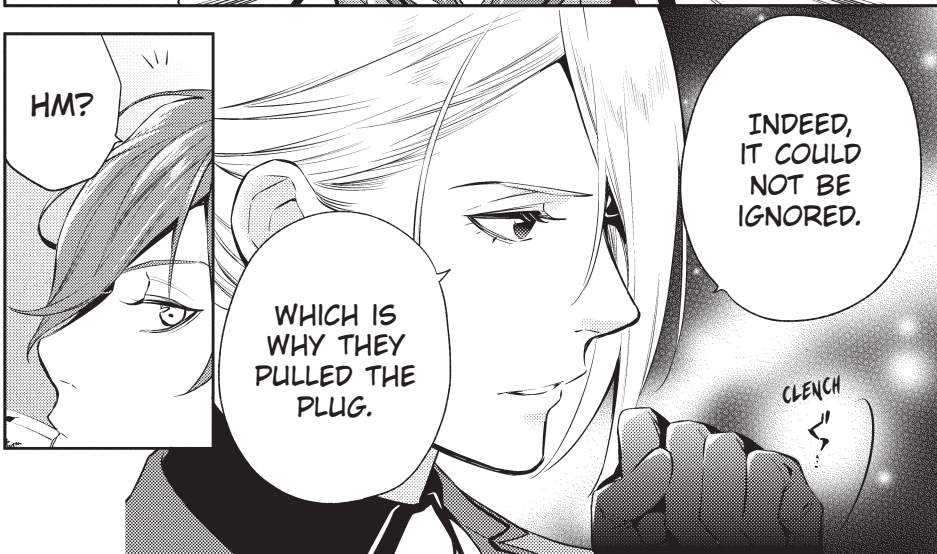
Nothing they planned to use right away.
This was simply a test—
the prepa-ratory stage.


and only then did they send it up.

Of course, it would have been hard to hide the launch itself.
So they carefully disguised it with a cover story,


NOT EXACTLY A PEACE-FUL STORY.
BUT DEVELOPING ARMS ISN'T NECESSARILY ILLEGAL, IS IT?
IF YOU GET AP-PROVAL.
OF COURSE NOT.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY DID IT WITHOUT APPROVAL,
BECAUSE THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE JUST THAT SHADY.


SHADY?
THEY SECRETLY LAUNCHED A MILITARY SATELLITE!
ガタッ
CLATTER
THAT'S ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS PREPARING FOR WAR!


INDEED, IT COULD NOT BE IGNORED.
CLENCH
ぐっ
WHICH IS WHY THEY PULLED THE PLUG.
HM?

SO, A MILITARY SATELLITE WAS LAUNCHED AND THEN SHOT DOWN?
SOUNDS MORE LIKE STARTING A WAR THAN PREPPING FOR ONE.
A SPACE WAR!
OH!
SO THE STAR I SAW...
WAS ACTUALLY THE FLASH OF IT BEING SHOT DOWN?
YES, IT SEEMS SO.
ULTIMATELY, THE MILITARY CONTRACTOR WAS RUINED.
NATURALLY, THEY NEVER LAUNCHED ANOTHER SATELLITE.
SO MS. DOJIMA NEVER AGAIN SAW ONE BEING SHOT DOWN.
AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER, I SUPPOSE.
IT WAS SHOT DOWN.
AND THAT, TOO, WAS KEPT FROM THE PUBLIC.

The dream I chased for ten years was actually a military satellite...

WOBBLE

Tragic!

No, this is beyond tragic, it's utterly surreal.

THAT SORT OF THING LEAVES A MARK ON HISTORY.

EVEN IF THIS HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO, WE'D HAVE HEARD OF IT.

WAIT A SECOND, NAGAHIRO.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T SAID WHO SHOT IT DOWN.

BY THE WAY, NAGA-HIRO.

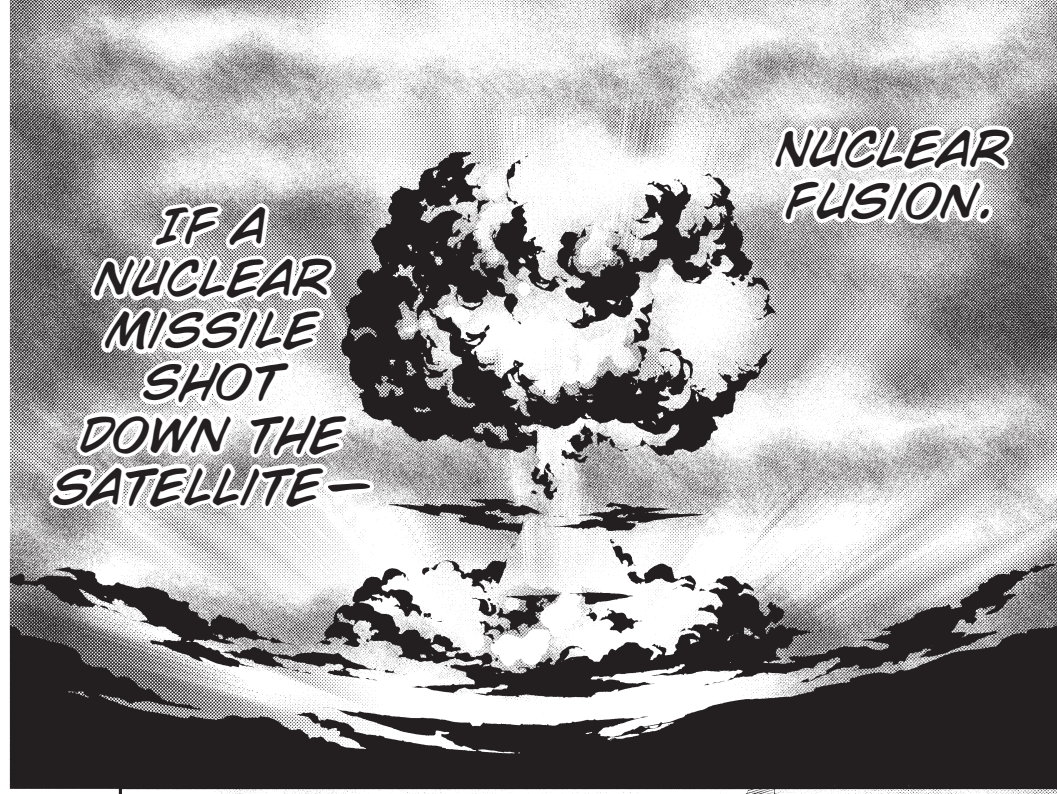
THEN COVERED UP SO IT DIDN'T BECOME AN INTER-NATIONAL INCIDENT?

WHAT IF IT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A FOREIGN ARMY,

Forget ignorant old me, if the Pretty Boy Detectives hadn't heard of it...

Could the downing have been done in secret, too?

What if the people who shot it down had a reason to keep it secret, too?
What if it wasn't just the people who launched it?
But what if my eyes actually saw the satellite exploding—
you'd expect it to come from the pieces burning up in the atmosphere.
If the flash of light I saw was a satellite being shot down,
THINGS CAN'T BURN WITHOUT OXY-GEN—
LIKE WE LEARNED IN GRADE SCHOOL,
EVEN IF IT WAS AT EXTREME CLOSE RANGE, IT STILL HAD TO BE IN SPACE, RIGHT?
THAT'D BE WEIRD, DOJI.
IS THAT THERE'S ONE KIND OF EXPLOSION THAT CAN TAKE PLACE IN OUTER SPACE,
EVEN WITHOUT OXYGEN.
WHAT WE DIDN'T LEARN IN GRADE SCHOOL
GASP



It couldn't be made public.

STILL, IT WAS MOST LIKELY A TEST.

IN SHORT,

IF A GROUP ILLEGALLY LAUNCHED A MILITARY SATELLITE, THEY COULD HARDLY COMPLAIN WHEN IT WAS ILLEGALLY SHOT DOWN.

SHINP

SOMEONE MUST HAVE DECIDED THE WHOLE THING SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET.

AND THEY LARGELY SUCCEEDED.

SHFF

IT WAS AS IF IT HAD NEVER HAPPENED,

AND NO ONE WAS THE WISER.

BUT YOU FIGURED IT OUT EASILY ENOUGH, NAGAHIRO.

you and Sosaku

THAT MIGHT BE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM OF ALL.

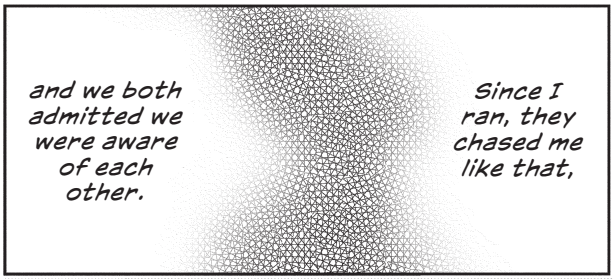
ANYONE COULD FIGURE IT OUT IF THEY LOOKED INTO IT.

ANYONE ABLE TO CONNECT SCATTERED FRAGMENTS OF INFORMATION WOULD REACH THE SAME CONCLUSION.

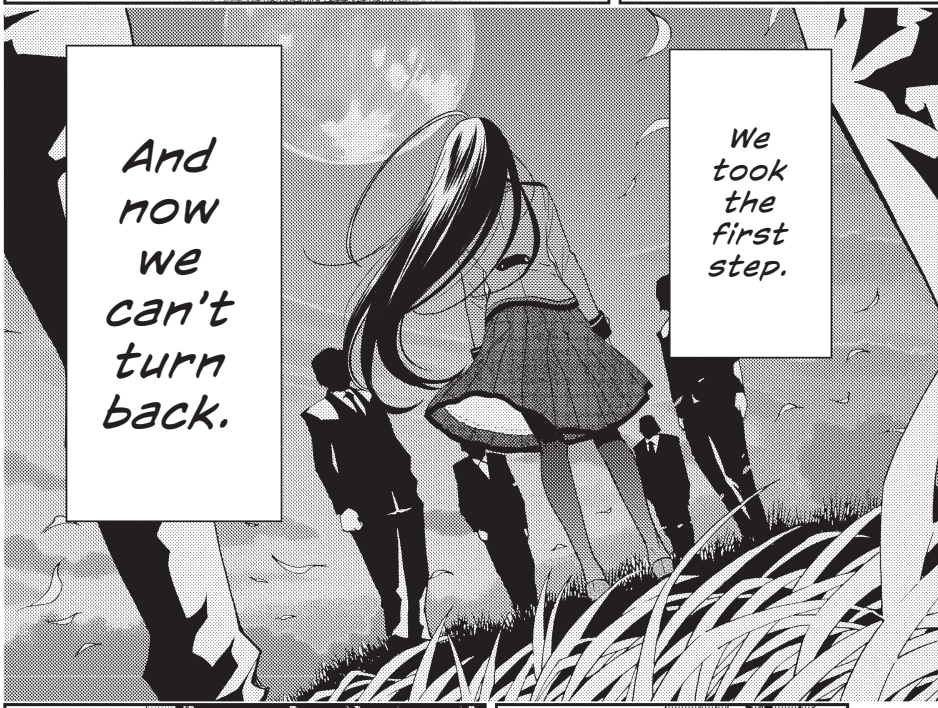
THAT'S WHAT'S SO DANGEROUS.

GIVEN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, ANYONE COULD UNCOVER THIS EXPLOSIVE SECRET.
THAT'S WHY A WITNESS TO THE ORIGINAL EVENT WOULD BE CONSIDERED SO DANGEROUS.
SO...
IN OTHER WORDS ...
WHO,
SHOCK
ME ?!

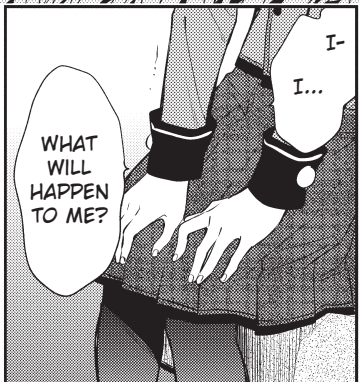
WHAT THE HELL ...
I've been saying the Pretty Boy Detectives were dangerous–
FWOOSH
WH...
I never imagined I'd turn out to be the dangerous one!
OUR TRIP TO THE BEACH SOMEHOW TRIGGERED ALL THIS, WITHOUT QUESTION.
WE MUST TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT.
BUT, WHY NOW?
I SHOULD'VE PRETENDED I DIDN'T NOTICE, AND GONE TO SCHOOL LIKE NORMAL.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN THIS MORNING.
FOR TEN WHOLE YEARS?
SO THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING ME ALL ALONG?


and we both admitted we were aware of each other.
Since I ran, they chased me like that,

I shouldn't have let them know I saw them...


And now we can't turn back.
We took the first step.

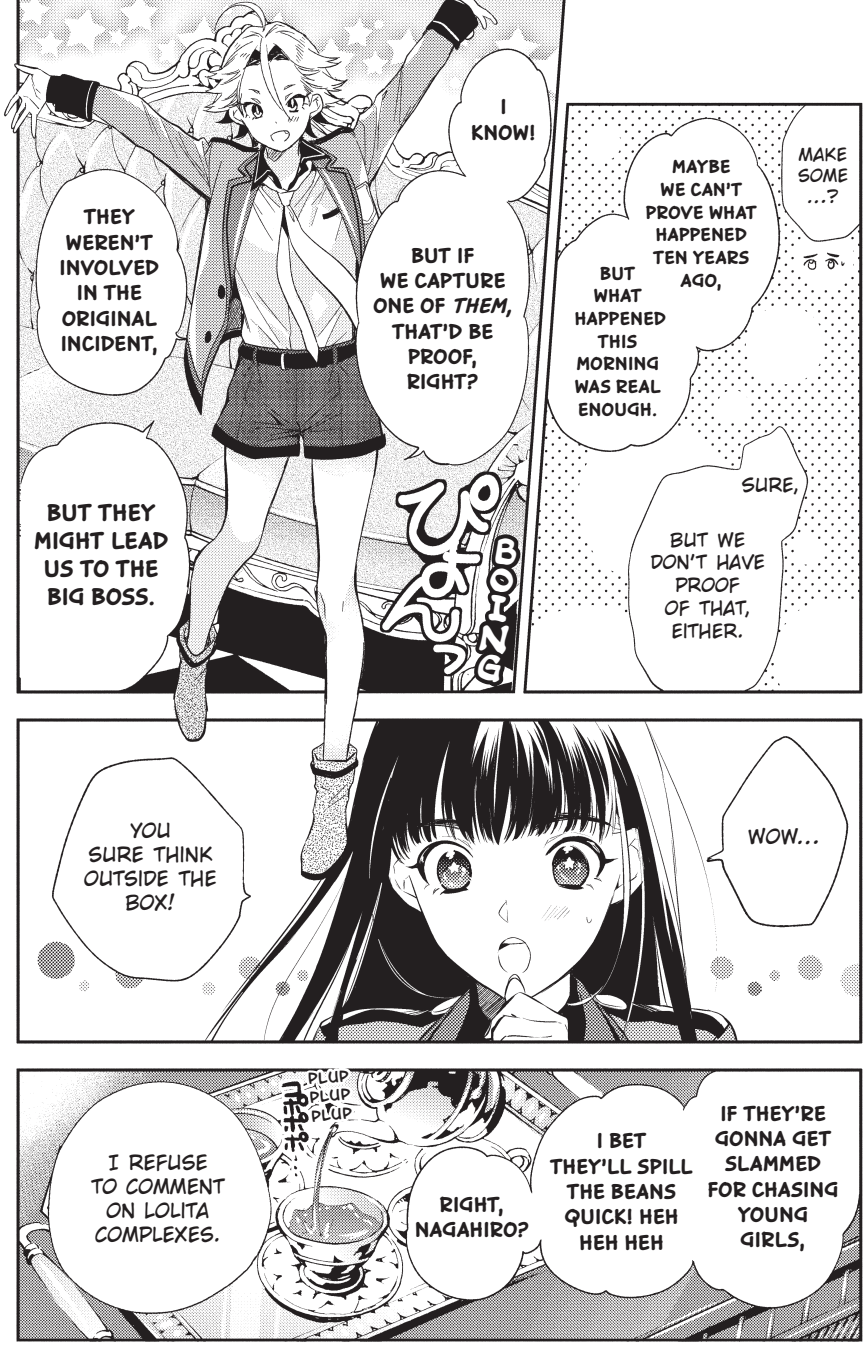
I'm terrified...
KID-NAPPED ?
DISAP-PEARED ?


I-
I...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?

HUH?
IDIOT.
YOU'LL BE FINE.
RIGHT, NAGA-HIRO?
DOESN'T MATTER WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH.
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE ADULTS DO.
WE'RE BOYS.
YES INDEED.
SMILE
HEH
GRIN

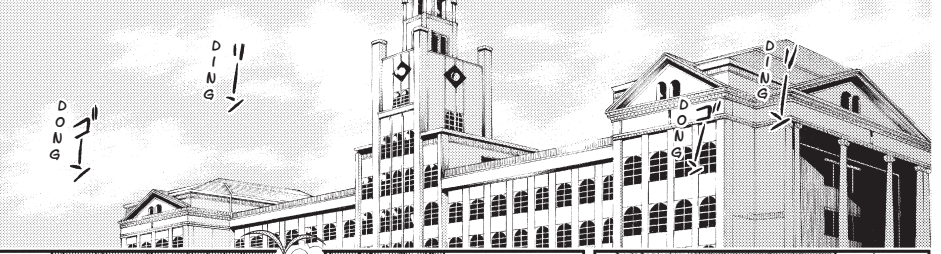
They really are special characters who live on a grand scale.
The Pretty Boy Detective Club.
How can they smile at a time like this?
How...?
GIGGLE
But I'm glad...
I'm glad they have my back.
I'm glad they're on my side.

THE POLICE MAY WELL BE ON THEIR SIDE.
I WONDER.
may I have some more tea, Michiru?
and tell them I was chased around by a suspicious mob...
PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?
ALL WE HAVE IS YOUR TESTIMONY.
WE HAVE NO PROOF, RIGHT?
GET SHOT DOWN WITH A NUKE.
THEY'D NEVER BELIEVE YOU SAW A MILITARY SATELLITE
THEY'D PROBABLY JUST LAUGH AT US ANYWAY.
GLUG GLUG
ガバッ
FWIP
SO IF WE DON'T HAVE PROOF,
WHY NOT MAKE SOME?
BUT,
IF YOU ACTUALLY DID GET KIDNAPPED,
THEY'D PROBABLY TREAT IT AS A CRIME.

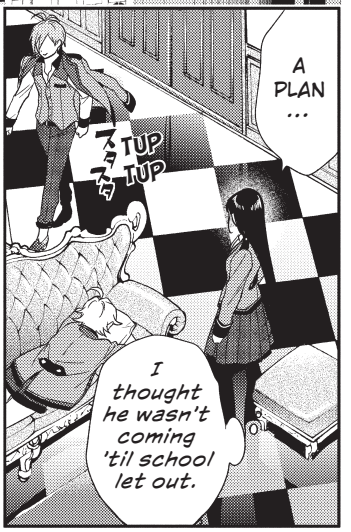

THEY WEREN'T INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL INCIDENT,
BUT THEY MIGHT LEAD US TO THE BIG BOSS.
I KNOW!
BUT IF WE CAPTURE ONE OF *THEM*, THAT'D BE PROOF, RIGHT?
BOINGO
MAKE SOME...?
MAYBE WE CAN'T PROVE WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO,
BUT WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING WAS REAL ENOUGH.
SURE,
BUT WE DON'T HAVE PROOF OF THAT, EITHER.
YOU SURE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!
WOW...
I REFUSE TO COMMENT ON LOLITA COMPLEXES.
PLUP PLUP PLUP
RIGHT, NAGAHIRO?
I BET THEY'LL SPILL THE BEANS QUICK! HEH HEH HEH
IF THEY'RE GONNA GET SLAMMED FOR CHASING YOUNG GIRLS,

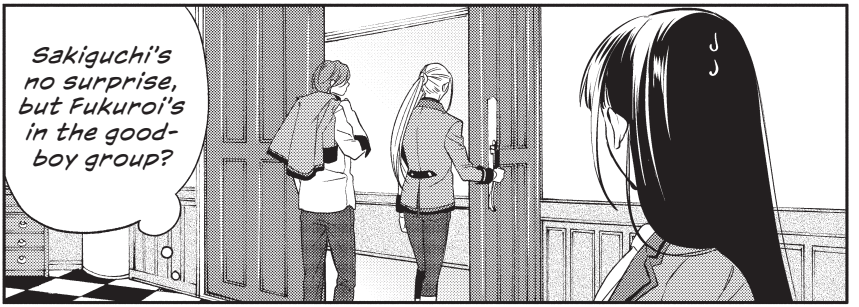
THE IDEA IS GOOD,
BUT IT'S RISKY.
THEY'LL BE WARY OF BEING FOLLOWED IN TURN—
AND THEY MAY BE ARMED.
ARMED?!
YOU MEAN GUNS ?!
THEN LEAVE IT TO ME.
VIOLENCE IS MY SPECIALTY.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, RIGHT?
I totally forgot...
Right, he's the baddest delinquent in school...
コキッ
CRACK
SLAM
WRONG !!

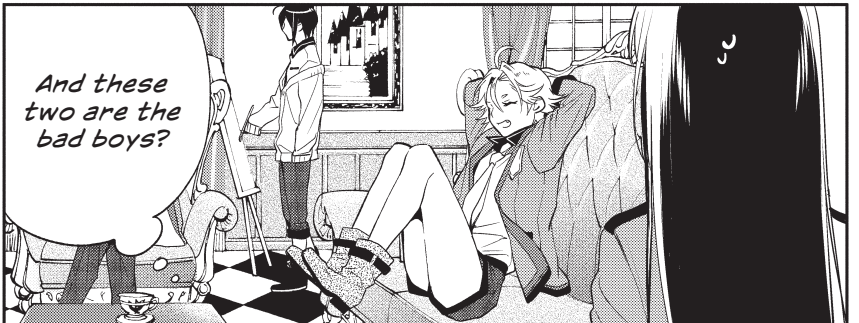
BA-
BAM
BECAUSE YOU COOK DELICIOUS FOOD!!!
YOU'RE HERE
SOTOIN !!
FEAR NOT, LADS.
I HAVE A PLAN!!


DING
DONG
DING
DONG

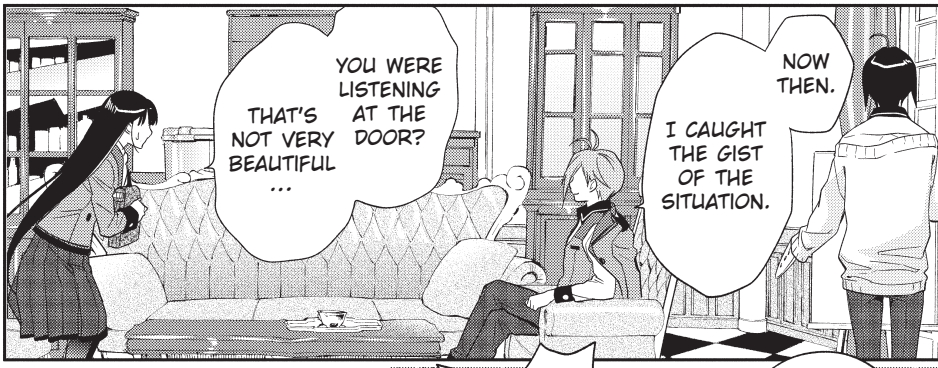
SO, THOSE OF YOU IN THE GOOD-BOY GROUP, GO TO CLASS.
THE BAD-BOY GROUP WILL MOVE AHEAD WITH THE PLAN!
If you run, you probably won't be late

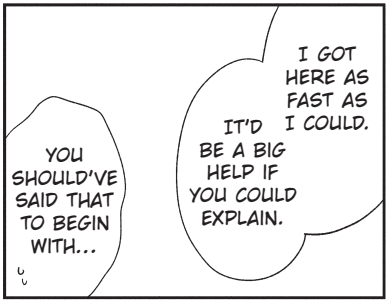

A PLAN ...
TUP TUP
I thought he wasn't coming 'til school let out.


Sakiguchi's no surprise, but Fukuroi's in the good-boy group?


And these two are the bad boys?

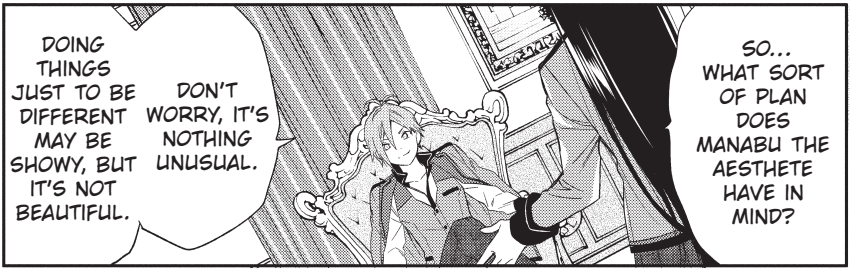
YOU'RE AT THE CENTER OF ALL THIS, YOUNG DOJIMA, SO GOOD OR BAD, I NEED YOU TO STAY.
OH, YOU DO...?
SLINK
OK, I'LL BE GOING, TOO...
bye, then...
CREAK

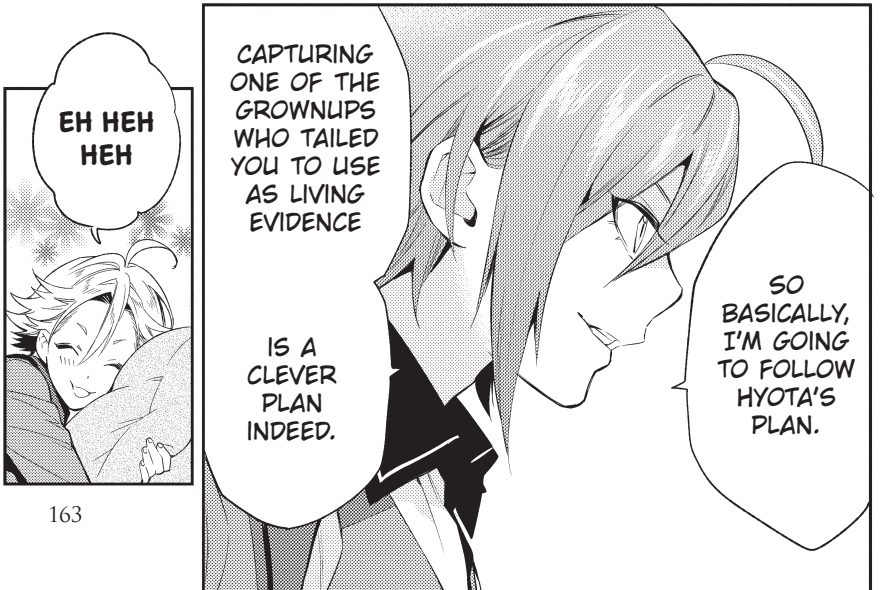

THAT'S NOT VERY BEAUTIFUL ...
YOU WERE LISTENING AT THE DOOR?
NOW THEN.
I CAUGHT THE GIST OF THE SITUATION.


YOU SHOULD'VE SAID THAT TO BEGIN WITH...
IT'D BE A BIG HELP IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN.
I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD.

WHA?
YOU DIDN'T CATCH ANYTHING!
heh
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT NAGAHIRO'S LOLICON, RIGHT?

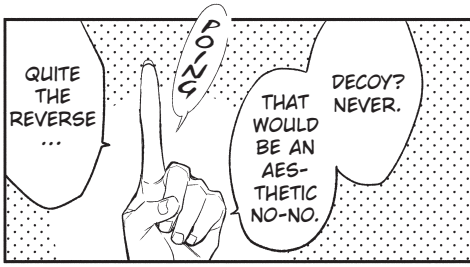
SO THERE'S NO NEW STAR AFTER ALL.
WHAT A PITY.
HMM.

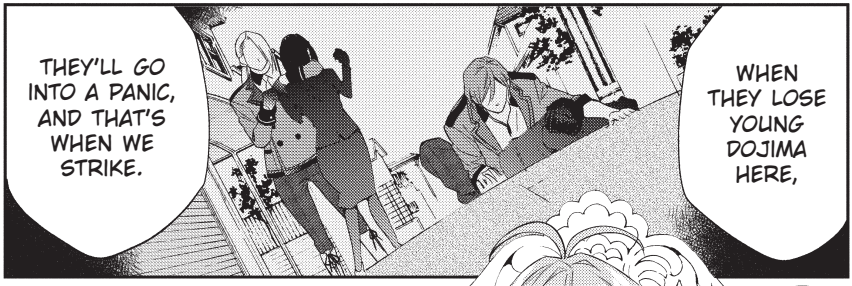

SO... WHAT SORT OF PLAN DOES MANABU THE AESTHETE HAVE IN MIND?
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING UNUSUAL.
DOING THINGS JUST TO BE DIFFERENT MAY BE SHOWY, BUT IT'S NOT BEAUTIFUL.

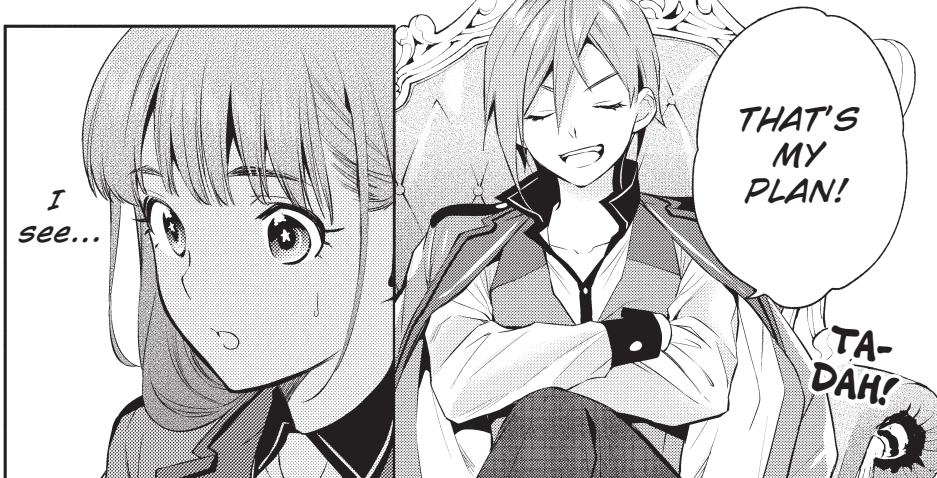

SO BASICALLY, I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HYOTA'S PLAN.
CAPTURING ONE OF THE GROWNUPS WHO TAILED YOU TO USE AS LIVING EVIDENCE
IS A CLEVER PLAN INDEED.
EH HEH HEH

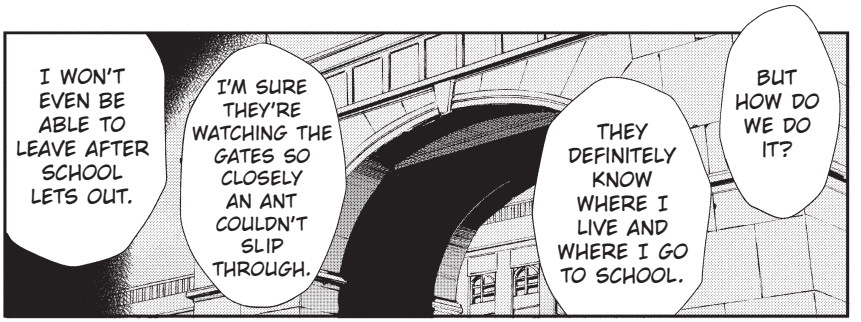
WE'LL MAKE THEM LOSE TRACK OF THEIR TARGET.

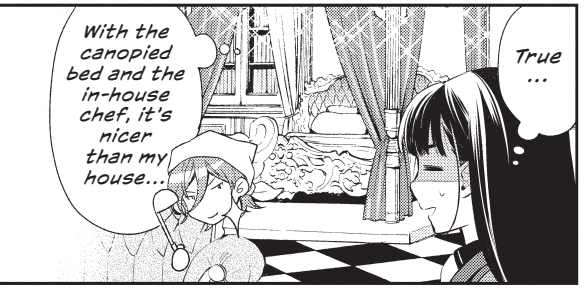
THE ENEMY WILL PROBABLY BE ON GUARD,
AND EVEN IF I ACT AS DECOY...
BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, IS IT?


QUITE THE REVERSE ...
POING
THAT WOULD BE AN AES-THETIC NO-NO.
DECOY? NEVER.

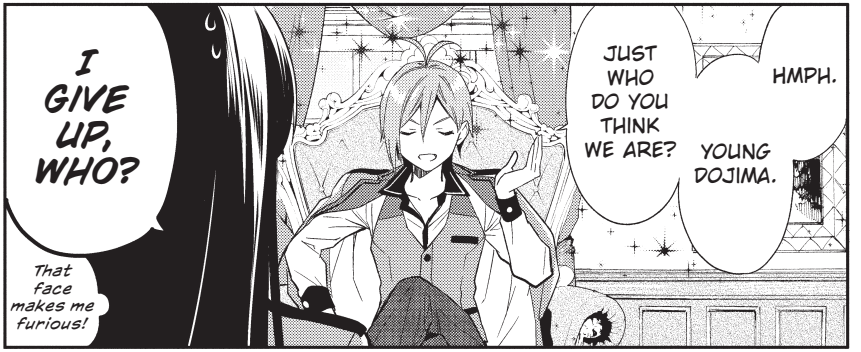

THEY'LL GO INTO A PANIC, AND THAT'S WHEN WE STRIKE.
WHEN THEY LOSE YOUNG DOJIMA HERE,

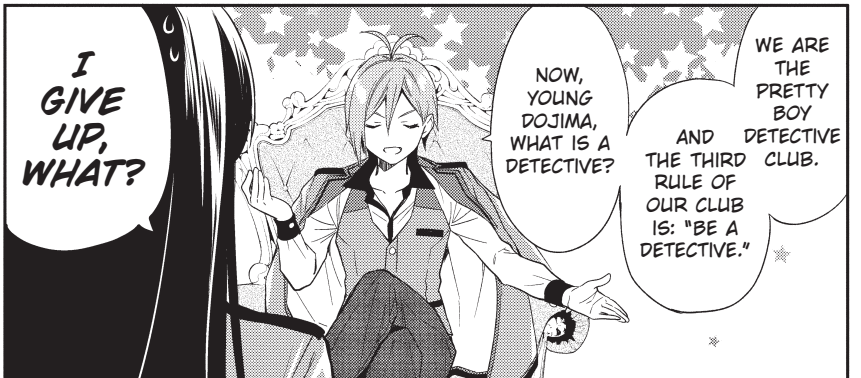

I see...
THAT'S MY PLAN!
TA-DAH!


BUT HOW DO WE DO IT?
THEY DEFINITELY KNOW WHERE I LIVE AND WHERE I GO TO SCHOOL.
I'M SURE THEY'RE WATCHING THE GATES SO CLOSELY AN ANT COULDN'T SLIP THROUGH.
I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO LEAVE AFTER SCHOOL LETS OUT.

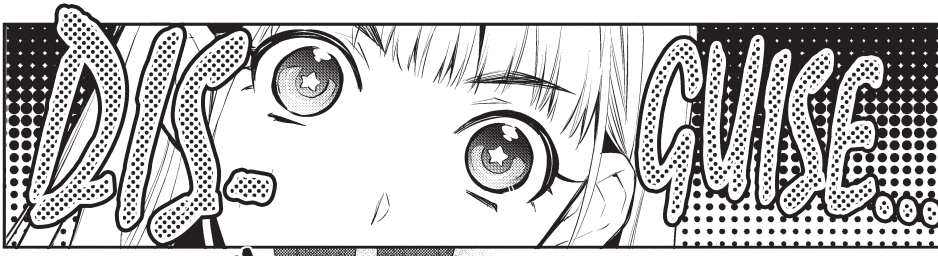

True ...
With the canopied bed and the in-house chef, it's nicer than my house...

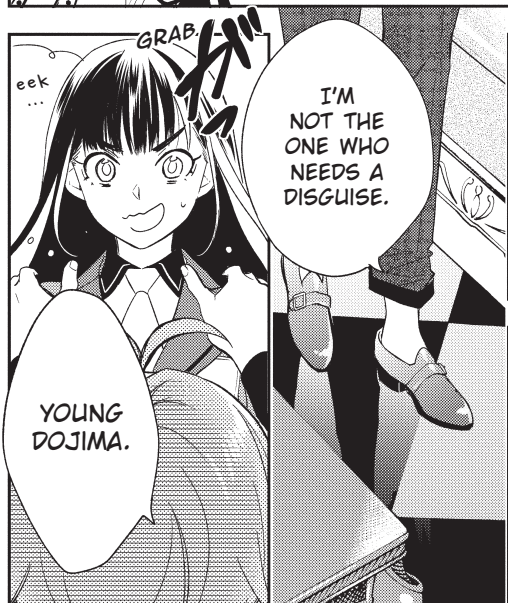
YOU COULD LIVE HERE IN THE ART ROOM FOR A WHILE IF YOU WANTED.


HMPH.
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?
YOUNG DOJIMA.
I GIVE UP, WHO?
That face makes me furious!


WE ARE THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.
AND THE THIRD RULE OF OUR CLUB IS: "BE A DETECTIVE."
NOW, YOUNG DOJIMA, WHAT IS A DETECTIVE?
I GIVE UP, WHAT?

KA-BAM
YES!! A MASTER OF
DISGUISE!!

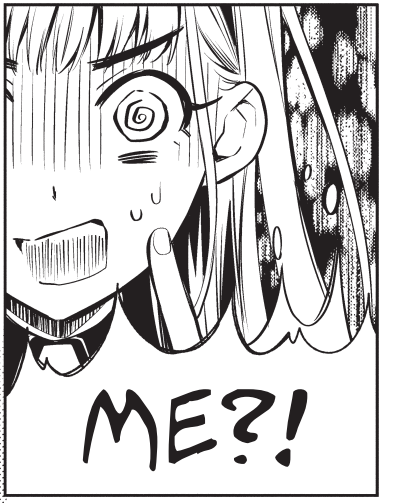

DIS-
GUISE...

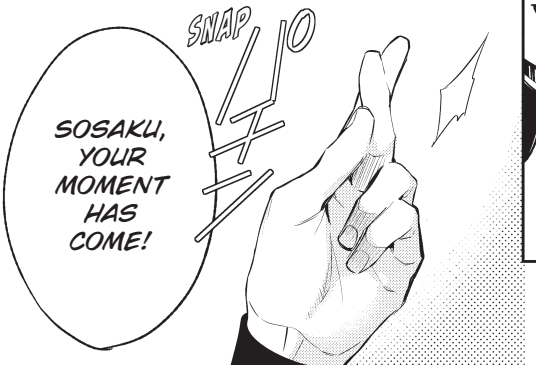

GRAB.
eek ...
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO NEEDS A DISGUISE.
YOUNG DOJIMA.

THE FAMOUS, AND TALL, SHERLOCK HOLMES EVEN MANAGED TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO A LITTLE OLD LADY.
SO YOU'RE PLANNING TO DISGUISE YOURSELF?
SURE, LET'S SAY DETECTIVES ARE MASTERS OF DISGUISE.

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY THE ONE WHO'LL BE PUTTING ON A DISGUISE!

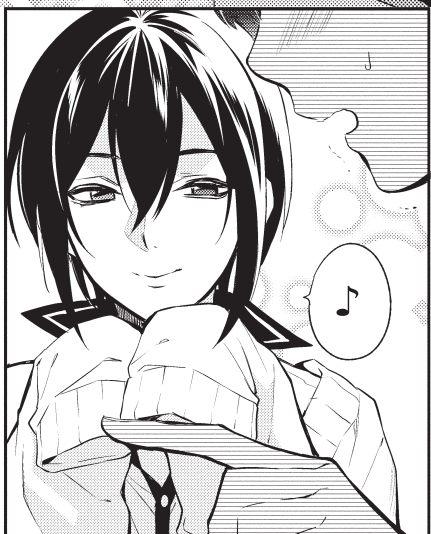
UH...





SCRAPE
FWUSH
FWUSH
DO HER UP!
HOL-?!
LIFT
Hey...

I got done up.



UGH, HOW COULD HE DO THIS TO ME? I WANNA SHATTER THIS MIRROR!
BUT MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE.
I'LL PUT UP WITH IT JUST FOR TODAY.
I-
I DO! I DETEST THEM!
...
HMM?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HATE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE?
SO YUBIWA, CAN YOU WRITE DOWN HOW YOU DID THE MAKEUP FOR ME?
CRINKLE
THIS WON'T DO!!
IT WON'T DO AT ALL!
...
HE HAD GOOD MATERIAL TO WORK WITH.
I SAW FROM THE START,
I thought the only thing you saw was up my skirt...

YOUR EXCESSIVE SKILL IS YOUR GREATEST BEAUTY AND YOUR ONLY FAULT.
YOU MUST LEARN TO REIN IN YOUR UNBRIDLED TALENT!
HE'S TOO BEAUTIFUL, SOSAKU!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS RAVAGING BEAUTY?
WHAT WON'T DO?
if I do say so my-self
THRUST
すい
IT'D BE BAD ENOUGH IF HE WERE JUST AN ODDBALL PRETTY BOY LIKE US.
BUT FOR SUCH A PERFECT SPECIMEN TO LEAVE SCHOOL WITHOUT A GIRL AT HIS SIDE WOULD BE UNNATURAL!
POINT
ビシッ!
So they know they're oddballs...
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...
THERE AREN'T ANY GIRLS IN THE CLUB.
AND I CAN'T PULL ONE OF MY FEW FEMALE FRIENDS INTO THIS MESS.
no girl to walk home with me...

IT'S THE LEADER'S DUTY TO MAKE UP FOR THE OVERLY EXCELLENT WORK OF HIS FELLOWS.
SWISH
OH DEAR, OH DEAR. IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
プチ POP
プチ POP
I'LL PUT MY SKIN IN THIS GAME.
BAM
DUTY CALLS!!
ONCE MORE, IF YOU PLEASE, SOSAKU!!
he wanted to do it all along!

AFTER SCHOOL
TUP
TUP
The most beautiful couple of the century has arrived!!
BA-DUM
ドキドキ
BA-DUM
TUP

What elegance ...

What perfection ...

Sosaku the Artiste has outdone himself.

But...

BA-DUMP

!!!

SLIP

MURMUR

MURMUR

Don't we stick out in a bad way now?!

It's fine, it's fine...

The other members of the club are following us,

armed with sketches Yubiwa did based on our descriptions.

HEY, SOTOIN.
CAN I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?
IF IT'S A BEAUTIFUL QUESTION.
TUP
WHY ARE YOU GOING THIS FAR FOR ME?
WHATEVER THE TRUTH, THE STAR I SPENT TEN YEARS SEARCHING FOR DOESN'T EXIST.
YOU CALLED MY CASE BEAUTIFUL, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE.
RISK IS ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR YOU NOW...
IN WHICH CASE,
WOULDN'T IT BE SMARTER FOR THE CLUB TO WITHDRAW AT THIS POINT?
HMM.
THAT CERTAINLY WOULD BE THE SMART THING TO DO.

IT WOULD GO AGAINST MY AESTHETIC.
BUT IT WOULDN'T BE BEAUTIFUL.
FEAR NOT, YOUNG DOJIMA.
BUT WE DO PROTECT OUR CLIENTS.
WE DON'T PROTECT OUR CLIENTS' CONFIDENTIALITY,
PAUSE
ピタ…
I'M JUST LIKE CINDERELLA …
…

YOU KNOW THE STORY:

FAIRY GODMOTHER DRESSES CINDERELLA UP, PRINCE FALLS IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT,

FINDS HER BY USING THE GLASS SLIPPER SHE LOST,

THEY GET MARRIED.

SHE'S A PASSIVE PRINCESS, WHO DOESN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HERSELF...

No matter how nicely they did me up as a pretty boy on the surface,

I'm still the same old person on the inside.

A servile, nasty, gloomy contrarian—

GRAB

I DISAGREE.

FOR PUTTING UP WITH THAT MEAN STEP-MOTHER FOR SO LONG.
CINDERELLA DESERVES TO BE REWARDED
AND WE, WHO MET YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR SEARCH, WON'T LET THEM GO TO WASTE.
IT'S THE SAME WITH YOU. THOSE TEN YEARS SPENT SEARCHING FOR A STAR WEREN'T WASTED.
YOU WILL BE REWARDED.
EVEN IF THAT STAR
DOESN'T EXIST!!

I THINK WE SLIPPED THEIR NET...

I DON'T SEE ANYONE TAILING US.

HMM, I WONDER.

BUT YOU MUST BE QUITE SENSITIVE.

MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW IF THEY WERE BEING FOLLOWED.

...UH HUH.

GIRLS ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO THAT STUFF THAN GUYS.

IS THAT SO?

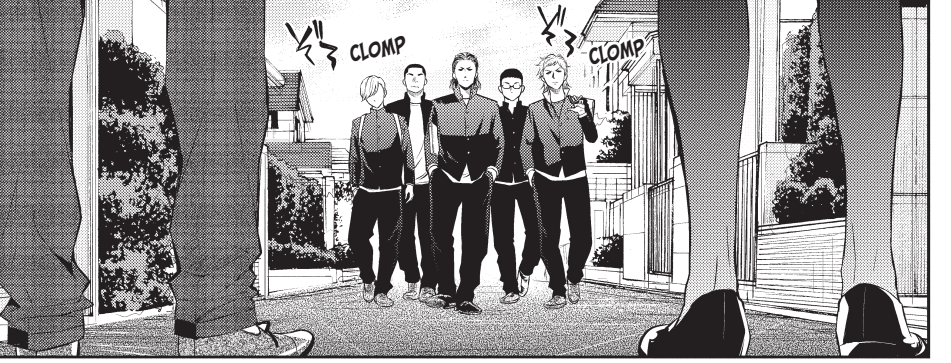
THAT MUST BE WHY YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE THE SATELLITE BEING SHOT DOWN.

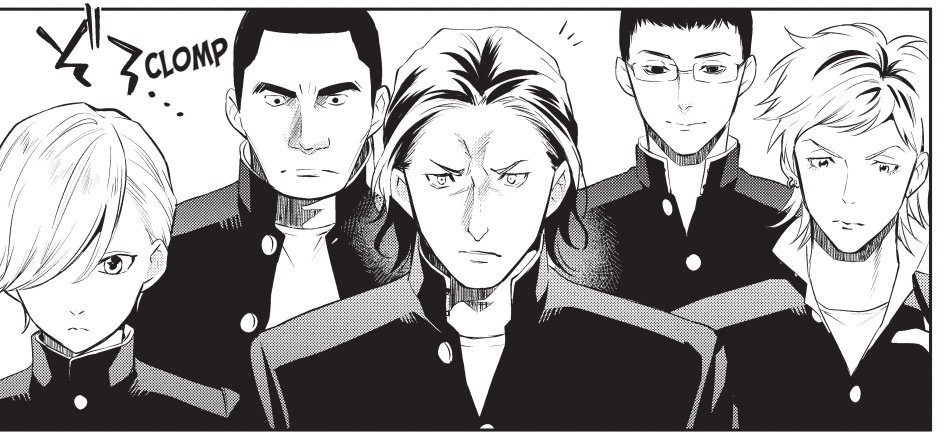
I GUESS WE'D BETTER THINK ABOUT ADMITTING GIRLS TO THE CLUB.

AH HA HA...

OH NO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?


CLOMP
CLOMP


CLOMP

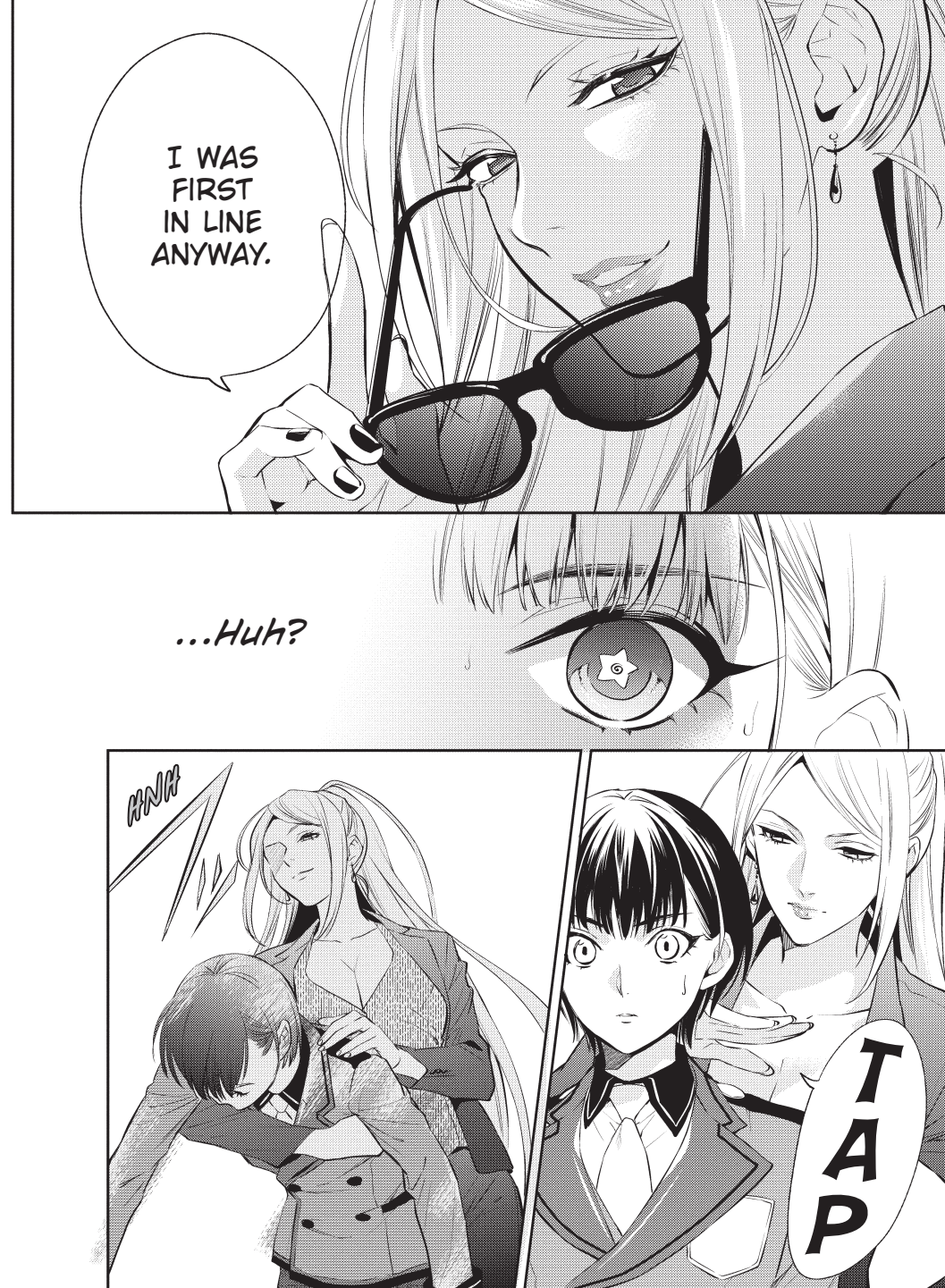
HEY, AREN'T YOU FROM YUBIWA...
STOP RIGHT THERE.
FREEZE

WHISPER
THERE'S BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THAT SCHOOL AND YUBIWA ACADEMY ...
CRAP ...

If they find out we're cross-dressing—
We accidentally strayed into enemy territory.

CLACK
?!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

?!!
SHFF
CLOMP
FEH.
AHH, BEAUTIFUL.
...NO WORRIES.
SWIP
THANKS ... YOU REALLY SAVED US.


I WAS FIRST IN LINE ANYWAY.
...Huh?
HNH
TAP

Who is...
this woman...
THUMP
EEEK

...
ZATS

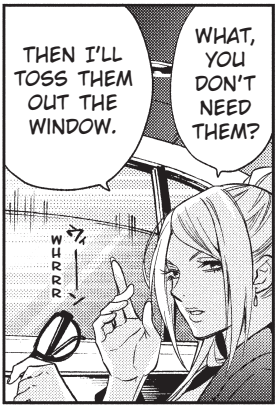
FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 5

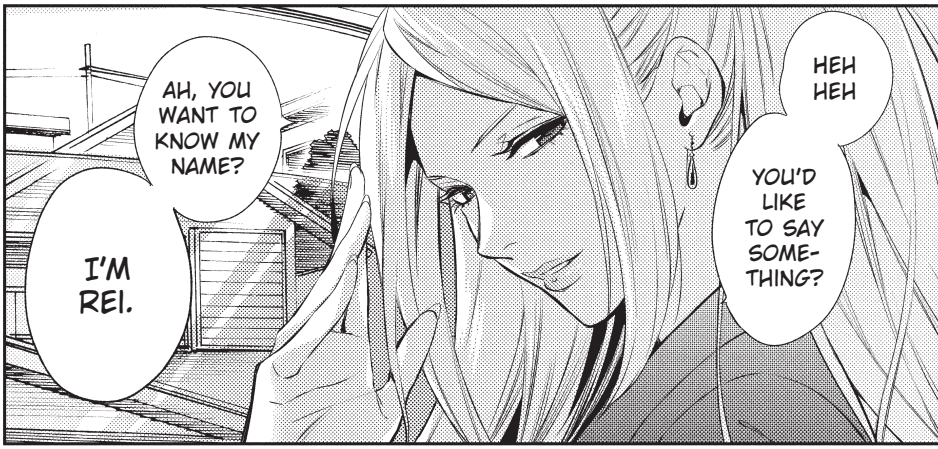
ブロオオオオ…
VRRRRM

HNH
Where am I...
JOLT
?!
THE KID IS OUT COLD.

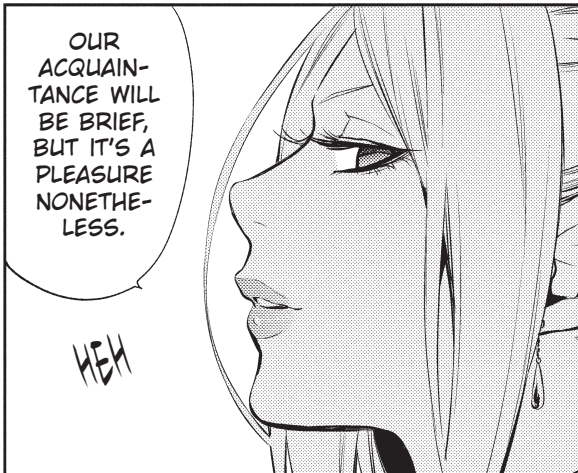
HE'S A BRAVE ONE, EH?
BUT HE STILL WON'T LET GO OF YOU.
AS FAR AS I COULD TELL FROM THE PAT-DOWN, HE IS A BOY, YES?
Sotoin ...
She broke into my house?!
I left those on the bathroom sink this morning...
!!!
YOU'LL BE NEEDING THESE, I BELIEVE.
HERE YOU GO, YOUNG LADY.

...
GRAB
ばっ


WHAT, YOU DON'T NEED THEM?
THEN I'LL TOSS THEM OUT THE WINDOW.
WHRRR


HEH HEH
YOU'D LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING?
AH, YOU WANT TO KNOW MY NAME?
I'M REI.

Rei...
That can't be her real name!...


OUR ACQUAINTANCE WILL BE BRIEF, BUT IT'S A PLEASURE NONETHELESS.
HEH

I GAVE YOU A LITTLE NECK MASSAGE WHEN I WANTED YOU TO JOIN ME IN THE CAR, BUT THAT DOESN'T COUNT, DOES IT?
I ABHOR VIOLENCE.
I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO YOU TWO.
OH, DON'T TAKE "BRIEF" THE WRONG WAY.
OF COURSE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO WITH YOU AFTER THAT.
WE'RE IN CHARGE OF PICKUPS AND DROP-OFFS, YOU SEE.
OUR JOB IS JUST TO DELIVER YOU.
I wonder where we're going...
...
NO... I'M NOT IN THE MOOD...
NO? OKAY.
oh,
CARE FOR A DRINK?
VRRRM

out of kindness.
I'm sure this "Rei" didn't leave us unbound
If I try anything, she'll just give me another "little neck massage."
Sotoin's been dragged into it, too...
What do I do...

Even if it's too late for me, he can—
CLENCH
...REI...
I'M THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE TWENTIES.
AND THE MOST COMPE-TENT.
YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH ME?
I WANT TO TALK TO THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR ORGANIZA-TION.

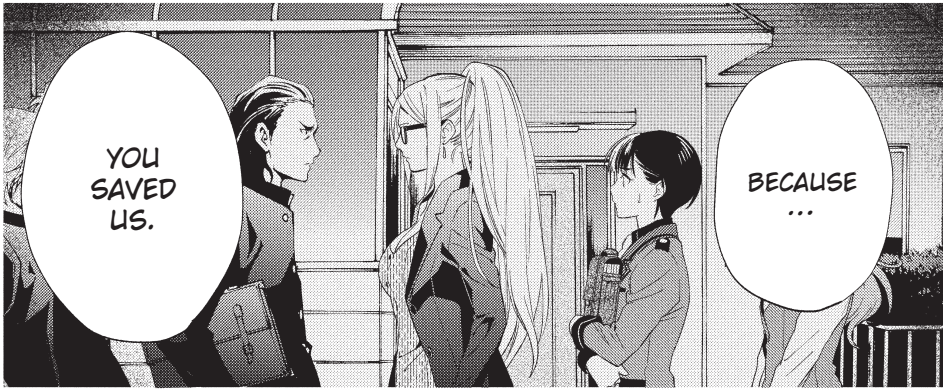
WHAT, YOU'RE SURRENDERING?
...I'LL BE GOOD.
I WON'T RESIST.
OR WHAT YOU DO TO ME.
I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU TAKE ME,
PLEASE LET HIM GO.
BUT THIS BOY...
HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
PLEASE... DON'T DRAG HIM INTO IT.

OH? THAT'S A SURPRISE.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE MODERN KIDS WHO ONLY THINK ABOUT THEMSELVES.
She's right.
I only think about myself, and I hate myself for it.
I'm a warped, servile girl.
But that's exactly why
I don't want a pretty boy like him getting pulled into this.
A boy who maintains his commitment to a beautiful aesthetic
even when he's knocked out.

WHY?

...I DO.

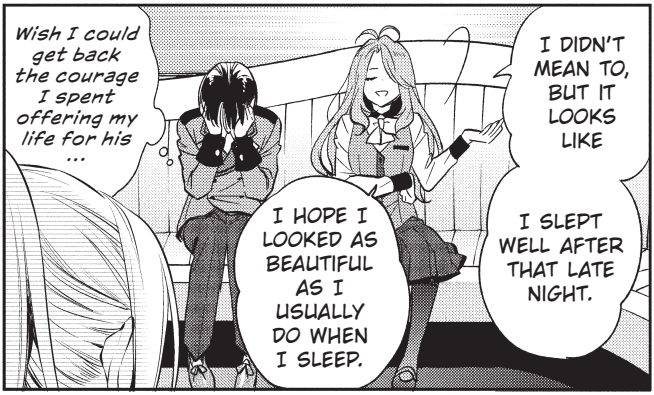
YOU REALLY THINK I'D BUY A SOB STORY LIKE THAT?
I'M A CRIMINAL, A KIDNAPPER, A BAD PERSON.

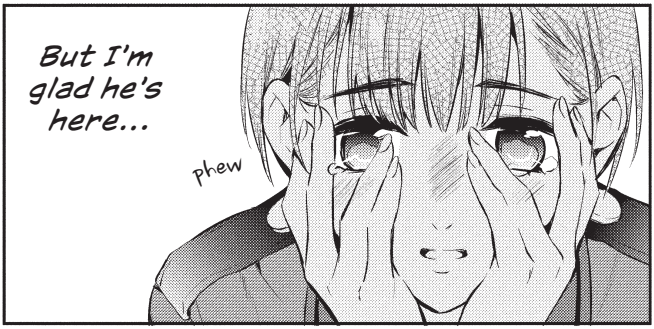

YOU SAVED US.
BECAUSE ...

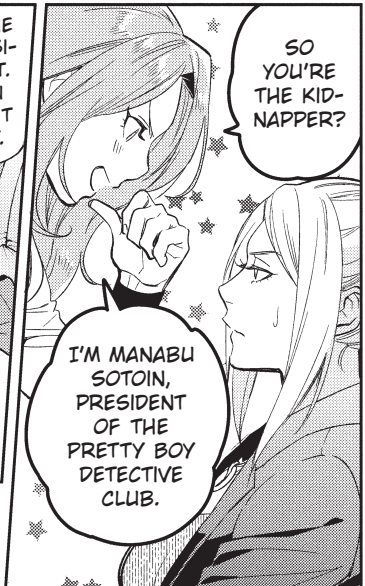
I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT A KIND PERSON.
YOU'RE A KIDNAPPER AND A CRIMINAL.
...

NO,
I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T REALIZE WHO WE WERE AT THAT POINT.
I WAS FIRST IN LINE.
YOU PROBABLY ONLY REALIZED AFTER YOU SAW MY EYES UP CLOSE.

BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ENTIRELY EVIL, EITHER.
...FINE.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
TWELVE.
STOP THE CAR WHEN YOU HAVE A CHANCE—
THERE'S NO NEED TO STOP.
Huh?
THAT'S NOT
A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO LIVE.

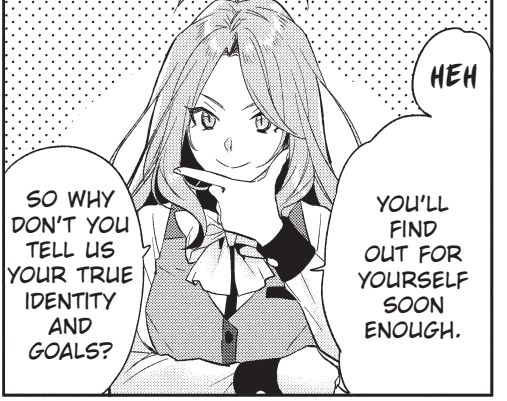


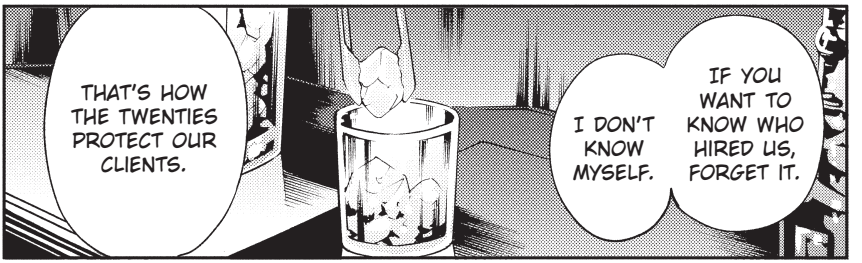


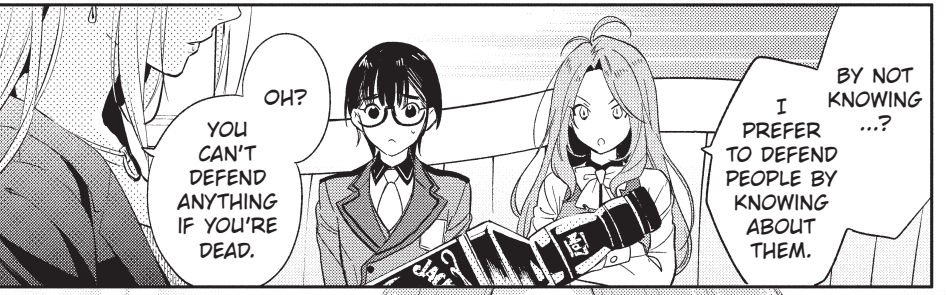


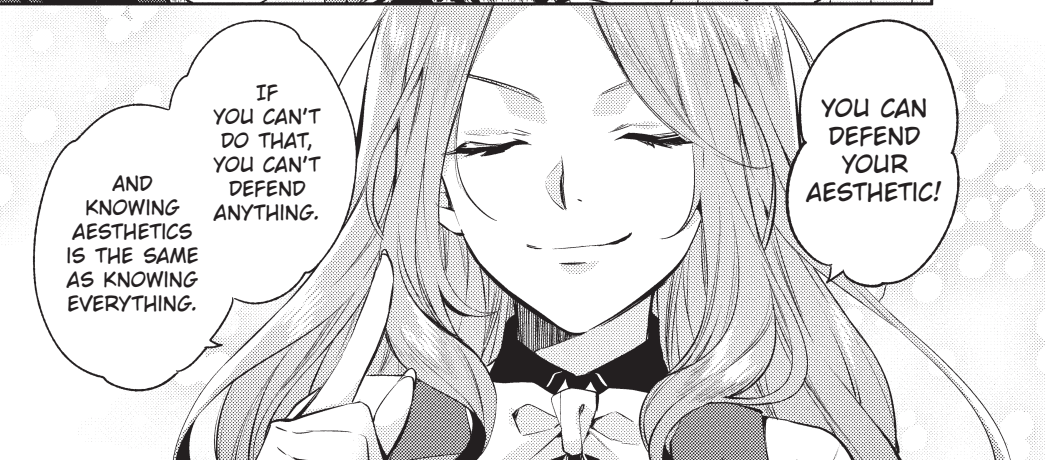
MANABU SOTOIN IS A GENUINE IDIOT.

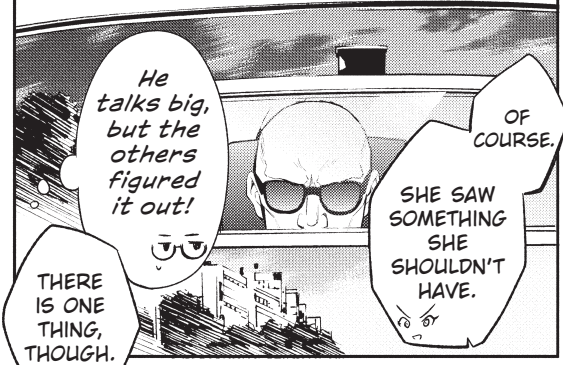
OUR IDENTITY IS SECRET,
AND OUR ONLY GOAL IS MONEY.

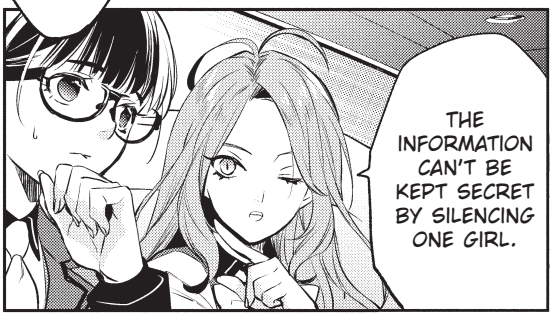

HEH
YOU'LL FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF SOON ENOUGH.
SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL US YOUR TRUE IDENTITY AND GOALS?

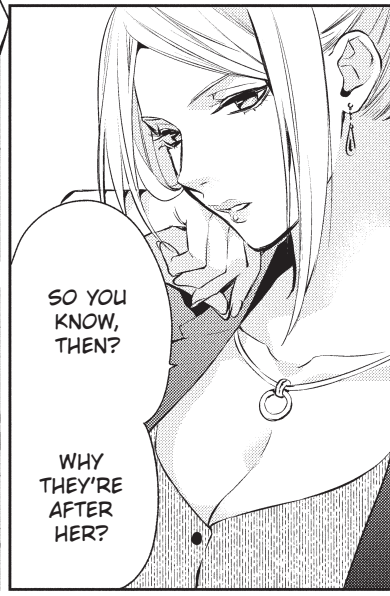

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO HIRED US, FORGET IT.
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF.
THAT'S HOW THE TWENTIES PROTECT OUR CLIENTS.

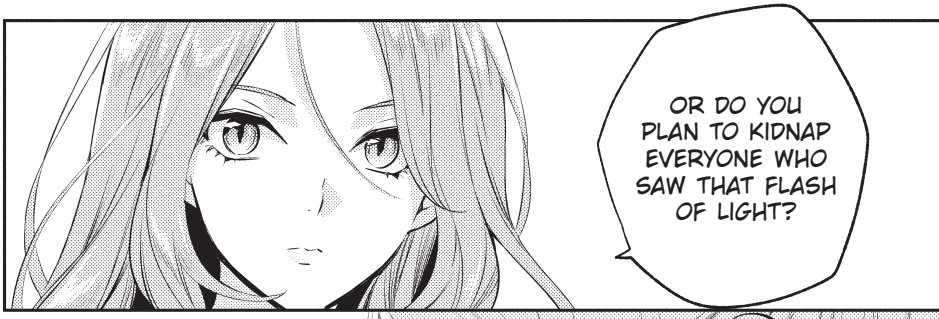

BY NOT KNOWING ...?
I PREFER TO DEFEND PEOPLE BY KNOWING ABOUT THEM.
OH?
YOU CAN'T DEFEND ANYTHING IF YOU'RE DEAD.

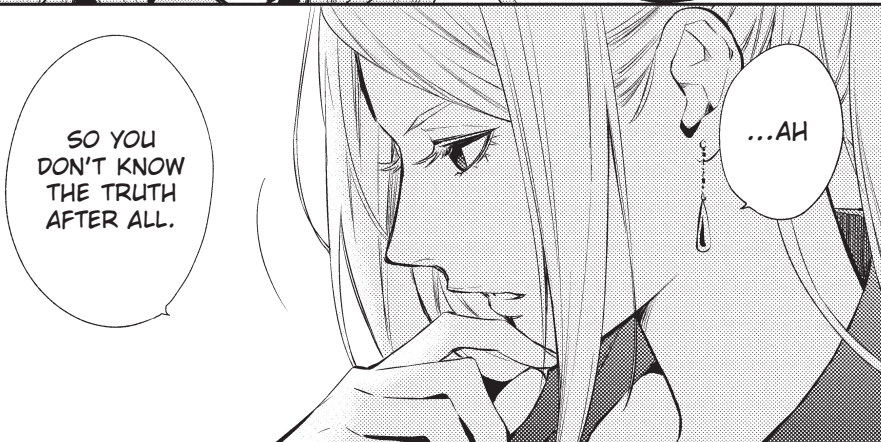

YOU CAN DEFEND YOUR AESTHETIC!
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU CAN'T DEFEND ANYTHING.
AND KNOWING AESTHETICS IS THE SAME AS KNOWING EVERYTHING.

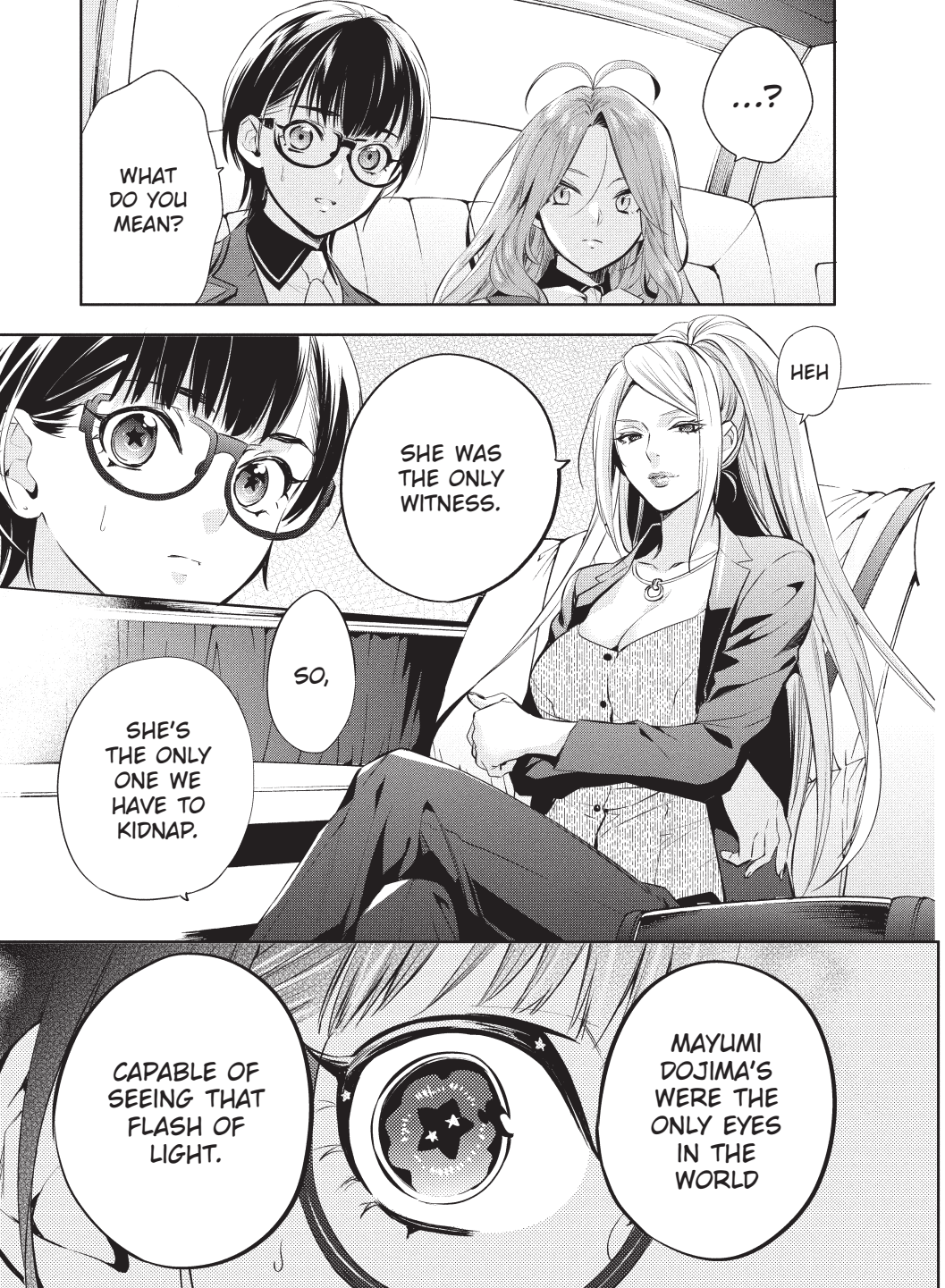

He talks big, but the others figured it out!
OF COURSE.
SHE SAW SOMETHING SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE.
THERE IS ONE THING, THOUGH.


THE INFORMATION CAN'T BE KEPT SECRET BY SILENCING ONE GIRL.


SO YOU KNOW, THEN?
WHY THEY'RE AFTER HER?

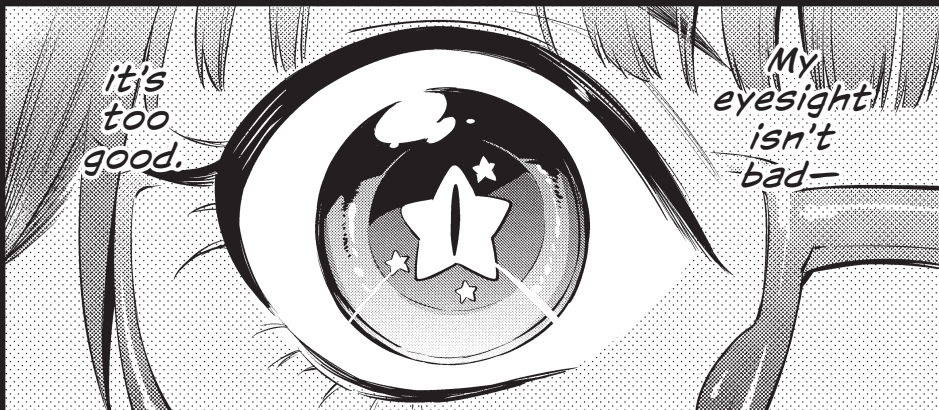

OR DO YOU PLAN TO KIDNAP EVERYONE WHO SAW THAT FLASH OF LIGHT?


SO YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH AFTER ALL.
...AH


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...?
HEH
SHE WAS THE ONLY WITNESS.
SO,
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE TO KIDNAP.
CAPABLE OF SEEING THAT FLASH OF LIGHT.
MAYUMI DOJIMA'S WERE THE ONLY EYES IN THE WORLD

My eyes.

Yes, there's a problem with my eyes.

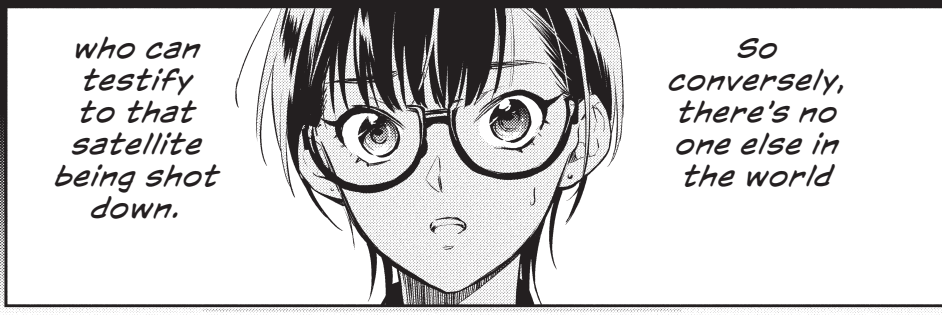

it's too good.
My eyesight isn't bad—

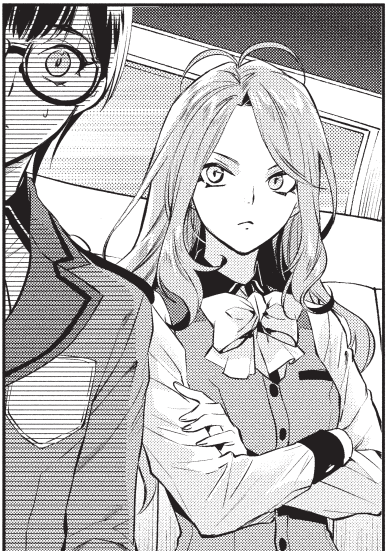
In other words, my eyesight is really, really, really good.
It sounds a little too sci-fi to say I can see radiation and X-rays,
but that's pretty close.
So good I see things I'd rather not see, things I'd be better off not seeing.
And.
So good I accidentally witnessed a military satellite being shot down even though the sun was shining.

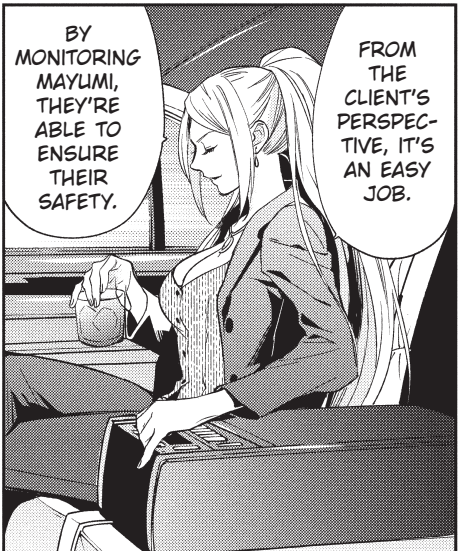
The only person who saw it...

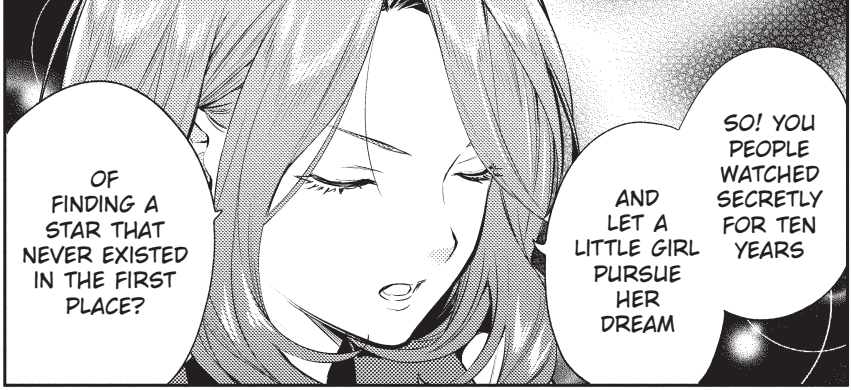
The only person in the world who knows.

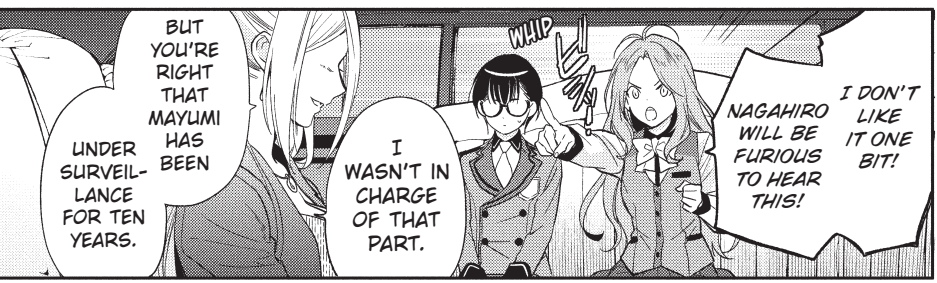
That's why I'm the only one.

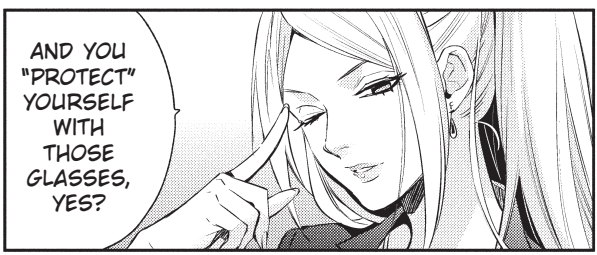




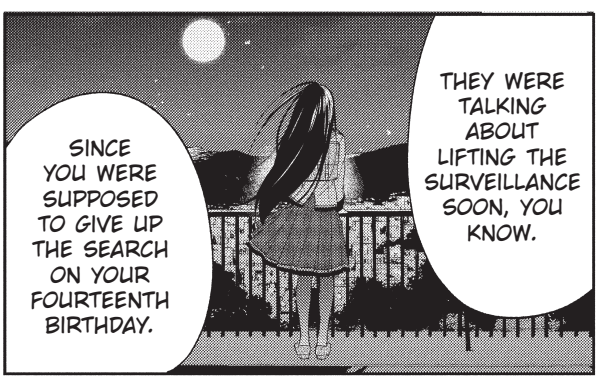


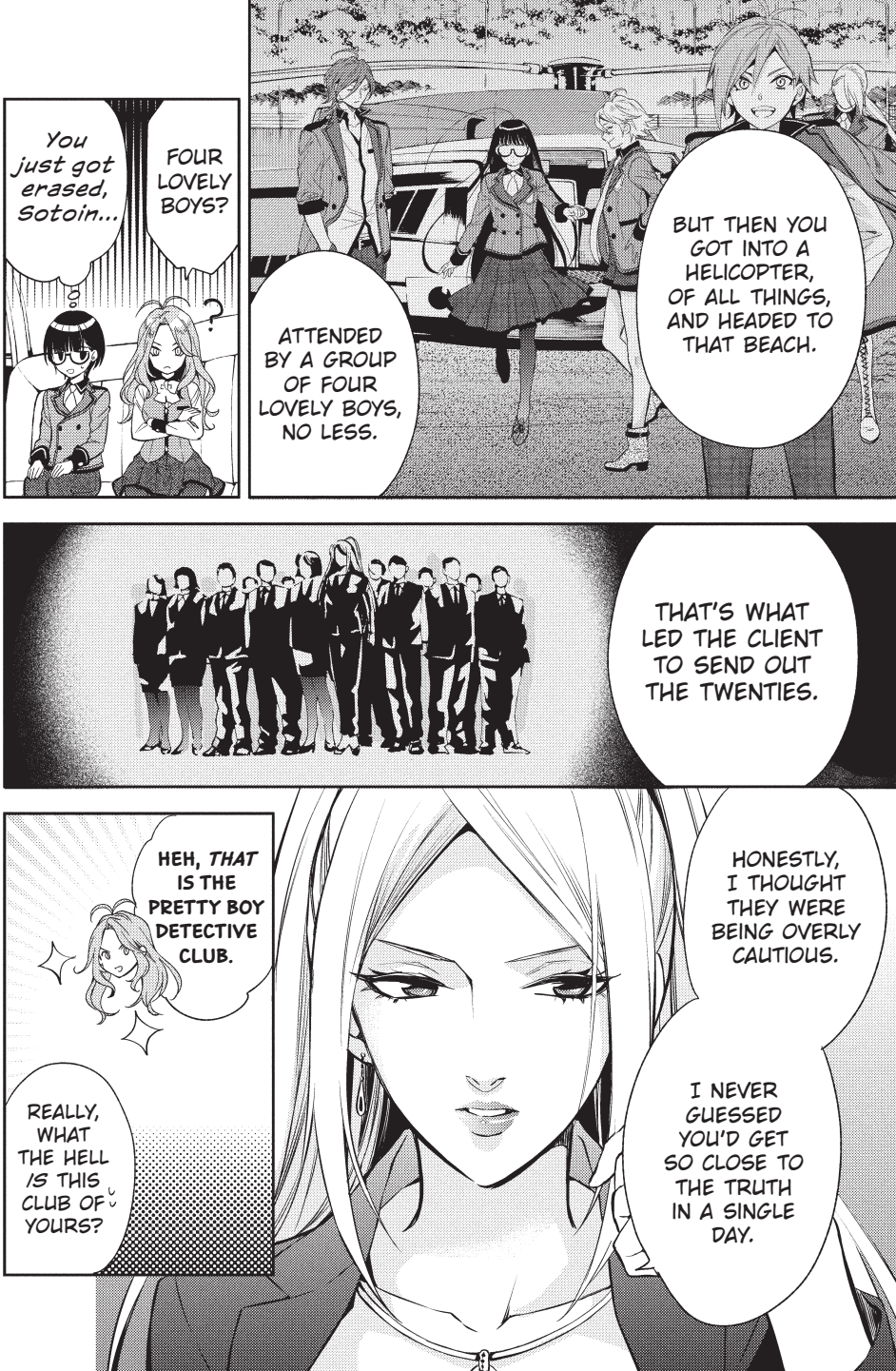

SO! YOU PEOPLE WATCHED SECRETLY FOR TEN YEARS
AND LET A LITTLE GIRL PURSUE HER DREAM
OF FINDING A STAR THAT NEVER EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE?


I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!
NAGAHIRO WILL BE FURIOUS TO HEAR THIS!
WHIP
I WASN'T IN CHARGE OF THAT PART.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT THAT MAYUMI HAS BEEN UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE FOR TEN YEARS.


AND YOU "PROTECT" YOURSELF WITH THOSE GLASSES, YES?

YOU NEVER REALIZED THEY WERE WATCHING YOU?
HAVING OVERLY GOOD EYESIGHT DOESN'T MEAN I'M CLAIRVOY-ANT!


THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT LIFTING THE SURVEILLANCE SOON, YOU KNOW.
SINCE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GIVE UP THE SEARCH ON YOUR FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY.


You just got erased, Sotoin...
FOUR LOVELY BOYS?
ATTENDED BY A GROUP OF FOUR LOVELY BOYS, NO LESS.
BUT THEN YOU GOT INTO A HELICOPTER, OF ALL THINGS, AND HEADED TO THAT BEACH.
THAT'S WHAT LED THE CLIENT TO SEND OUT THE TWENTIES.
HEH, THAT IS THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.
REALLY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS CLUB OF YOURS?
HONESTLY, I THOUGHT THEY WERE BEING OVERLY CAUTIOUS.
I NEVER GUESSED YOU'D GET SO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH IN A SINGLE DAY.

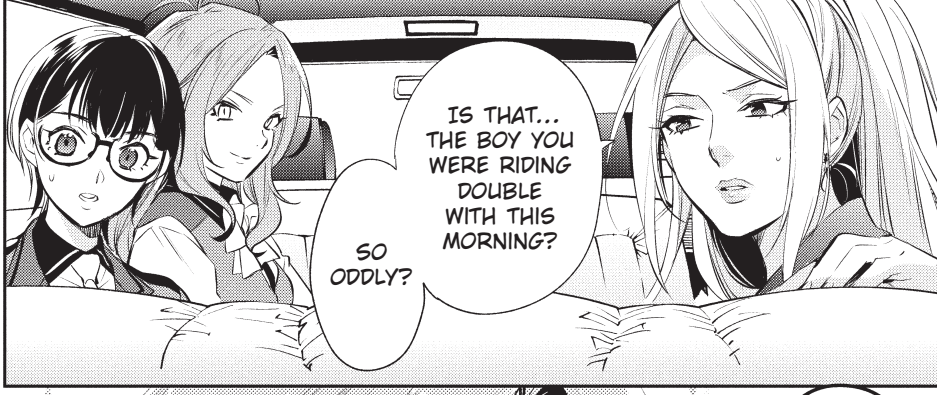
BAM
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR OUR RULES?
ONE!
BE PRETTY.
TWO!
BE A BOY.
THREE!
BE A DETECTIVE.
SO YOU JUST TOOK THE NAME STRAIGHT FROM THE RULES?
WRONG. THEN WE'D JUST BE SOME PRETTY BOY DETECTIVES.
THE FOURTH RULE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT.
THE FOURTH RULE?
I thought there were only three...
YES. THE FOURTH RULE IS ULTIMATELY THE ONLY ONE WE NEED.
PING

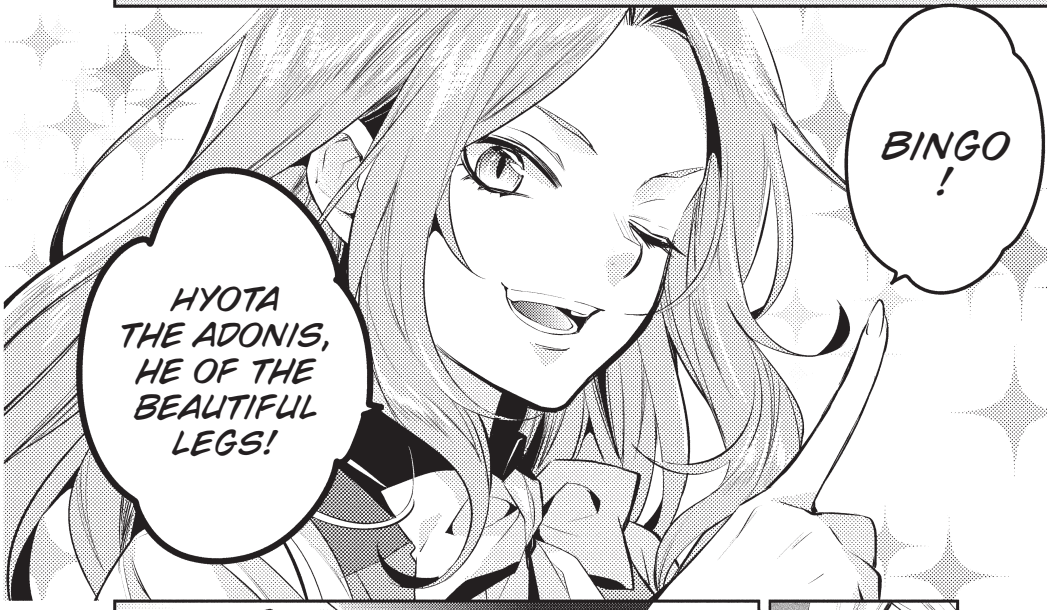
THE FOURTH RULE OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB:
"BE A TEAM."

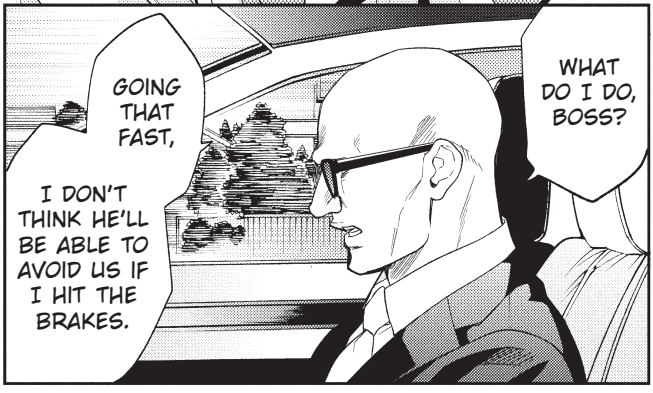
BOSS !!
WHAT IS IT, TWELVE?
SOME-THING TO REPORT!
A BICYCLE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR A WHILE NOW!
A bicycle...

MR. BARE-LEGS!!
ヒュゴォォォォォ

...Im...
Impossible...
Tailing a car on a bike?

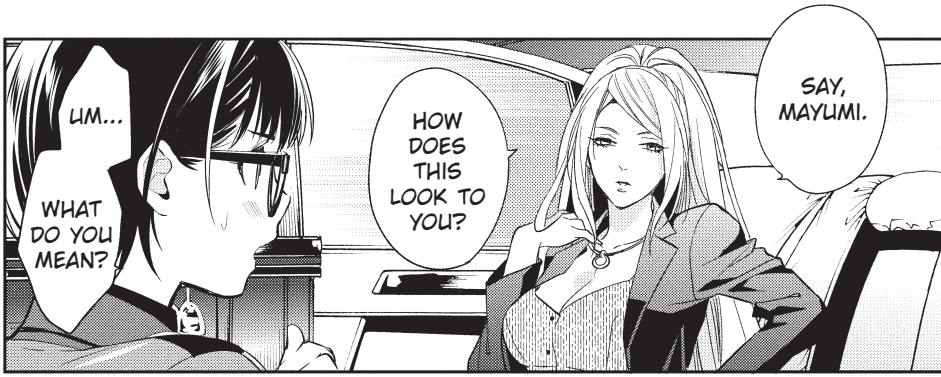

IS THAT... THE BOY YOU WERE RIDING DOUBLE WITH THIS MORNING?
SO ODDLY?

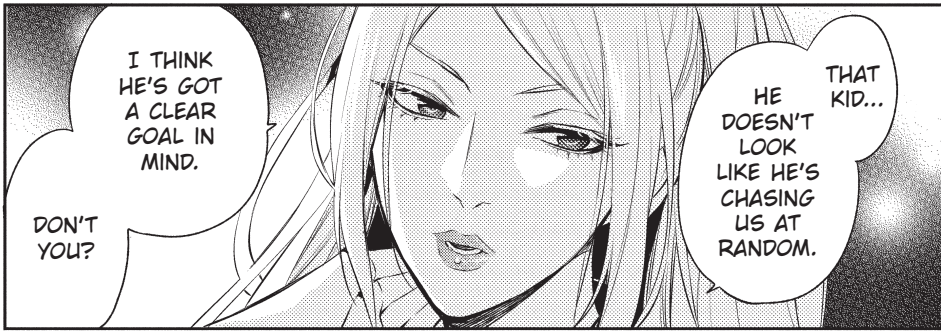

BINGO!
HYOTA THE ADONIS, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL LEGS!

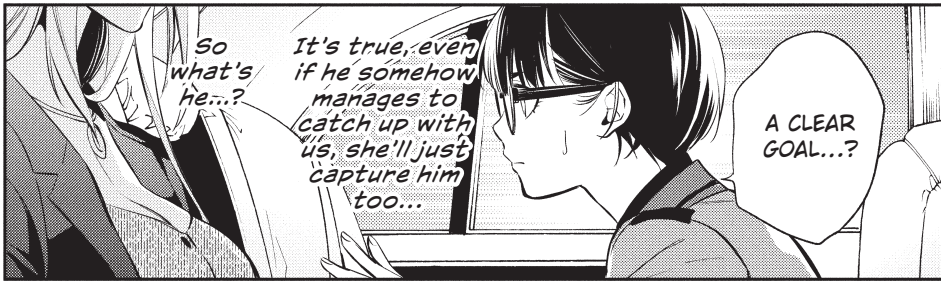

WHAT DO I DO, BOSS?
GOING THAT FAST,
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO AVOID US IF I HIT THE BRAKES.

I SEE...

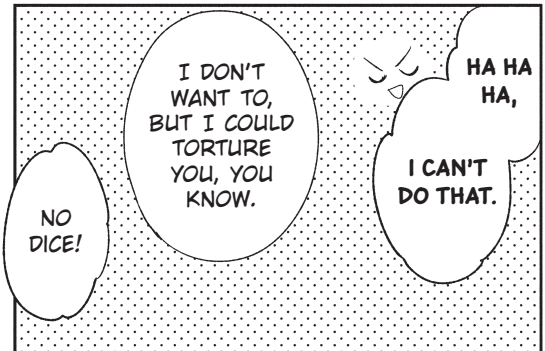
TRUE...
THAT DOES SEEM TO BE THE CASE...
NO WAY.
HE'S A CHILD!
HE'S NOT A CHILD, HE'S A BOY.
AND A VERY PRETTY BOY AT THAT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, BOSS?
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T CATCH UP, HE'LL BE TOUGH TO SHAKE OFF...
IF HE KEEPS FOLLOWING US, HE'LL JEOPARDIZE THE MISSION.
...


SAY, MAYUMI.
HOW DOES THIS LOOK TO YOU?
UM...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

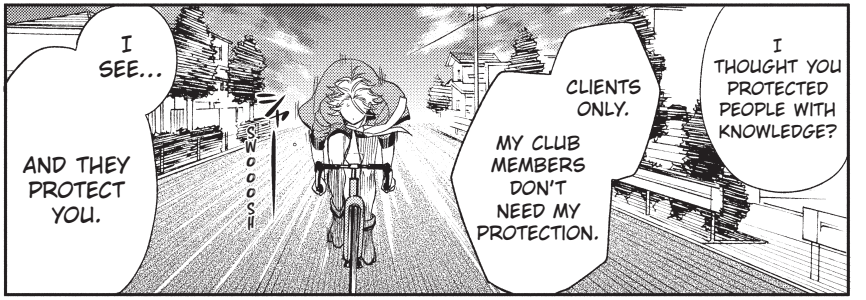

THAT KID...
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S CHASING US AT RANDOM.
I THINK HE'S GOT A CLEAR GOAL IN MIND.
DON'T YOU?

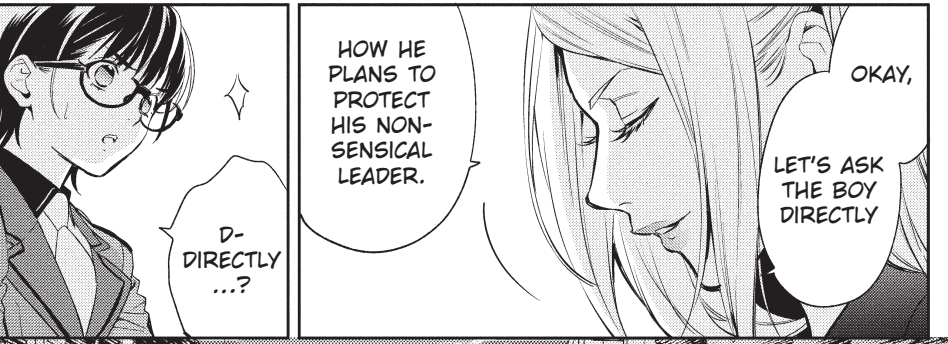

A CLEAR GOAL...?
It's true, even if he somehow manages to catch up with us, she'll just capture him too...
So what's he...?

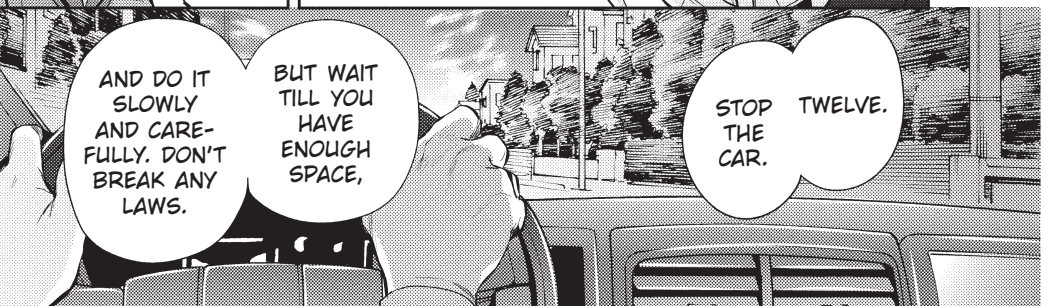
MAYBE YOUR LEADER CAN ENLIGHTEN US?

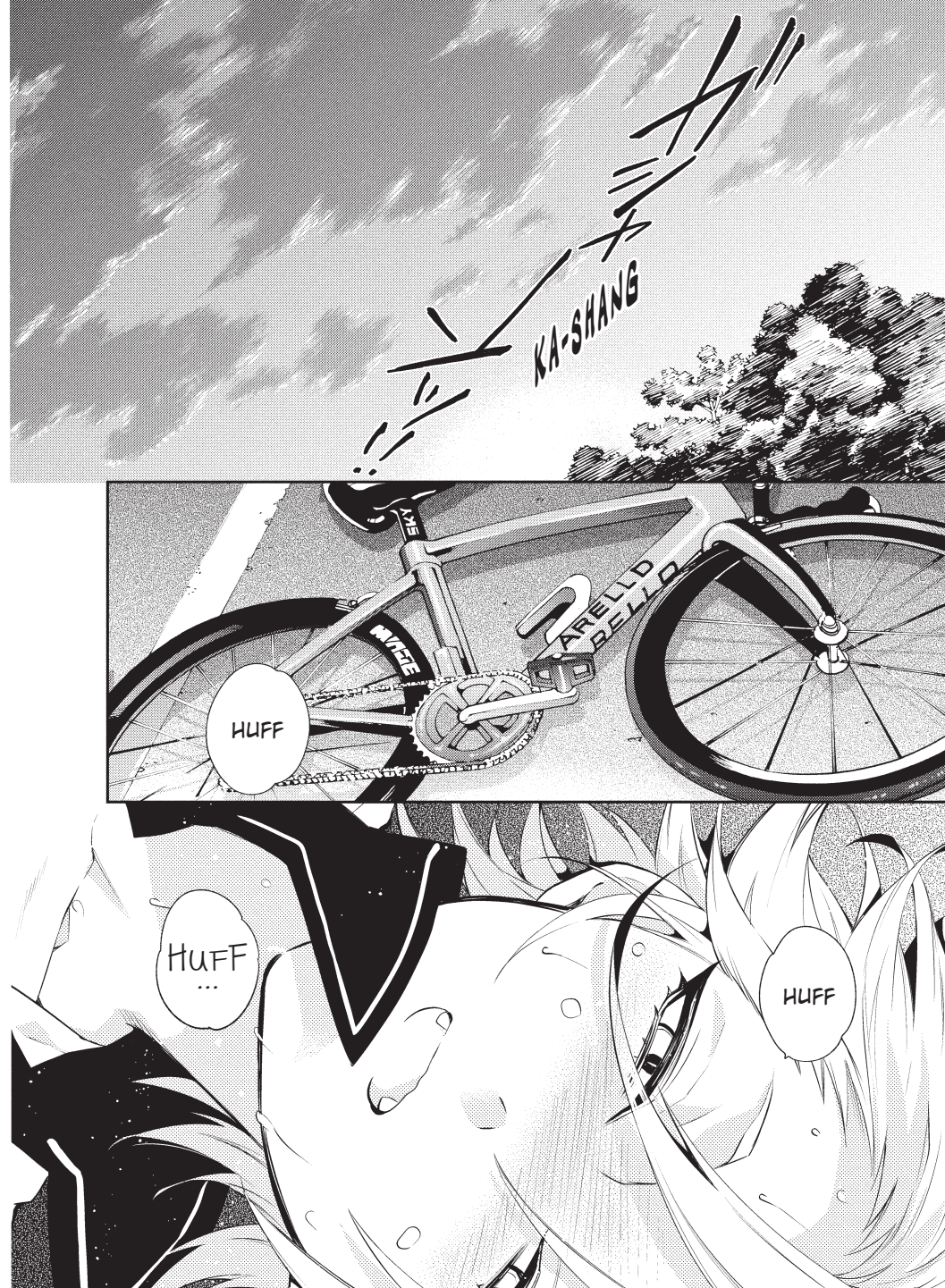

HA HA HA,
I CAN'T DO THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO, BUT I COULD TORTURE YOU, YOU KNOW.
NO DICE!

BAM
YOU SEE, OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD,
I HAVE THE LEAST IDEA WHAT HE'S PLANNING TO DO!

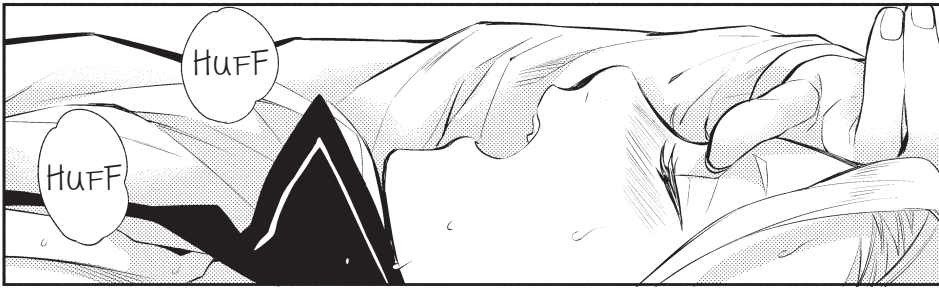

I THOUGHT YOU PROTECTED PEOPLE WITH KNOWLEDGE?
CLIENTS ONLY.
MY CLUB MEMBERS DON'T NEED MY PROTECTION.
SWOOOSH
I SEE...
AND THEY PROTECT YOU.

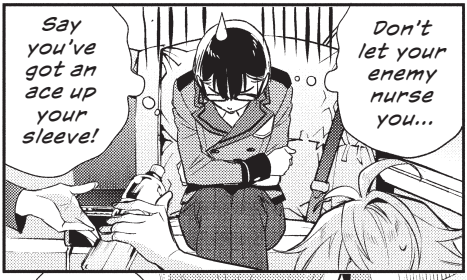

OKAY,
LET'S ASK THE BOY DIRECTLY
HOW HE PLANS TO PROTECT HIS NON-SENSICAL LEADER.
D-DIRECTLY ...?

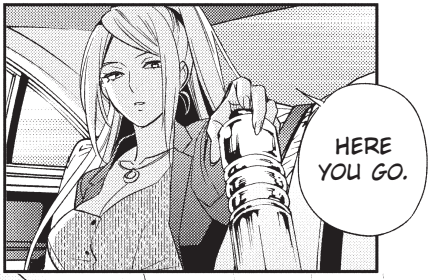

TWELVE.
STOP THE CAR.
BUT WAIT TILL YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPACE,
AND DO IT SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY. DON'T BREAK ANY LAWS.


KA-SHANG
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...

HUFFFF ...
SEEMS TO HAVE HIT HIS LIMIT.
TWELVE, PUT HIM IN THE CAR.


HUFF
HUFF


Say you've got an ace up your sleeve!
Don't let your enemy nurse you...


HERE YOU GO.

YES, AS YOU CAN SEE.
HUFF
AH HA HA...
SOTOIN, I'M GLAD YOU'RE OK...
HUFF

HUFF

...I'M

THE LEG ACE.

HUFF

I CAN SEE THAT MUCH.

IF YOU CAN TALK, I'D LOVE AN EXPLANATION,

MR. CUTE-SHORTS.

ONE BOY IN DRAG, ANOTHER SHOWING OFF HIS LEGS...

WHAT ARE YOU, SOME BAND OF HEDONISTS?

NO...

NOT...

LEG ACE...

LEGATE...

HUFF

I MEANT TO SAY LEGATE...

RUMMAGE

HUP

むぐっ

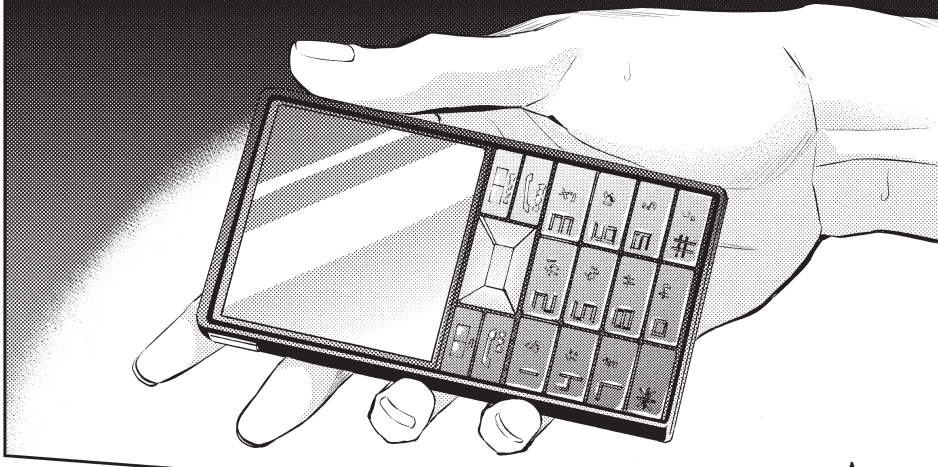
RUMMAGE

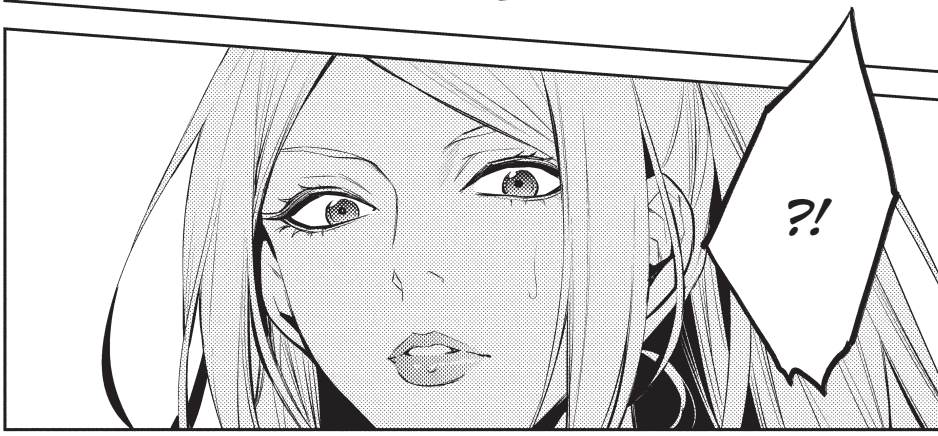
HUFF

HERE...

OH?

I THOUGHT DELIVERIES WERE OUR SPECIALTY.

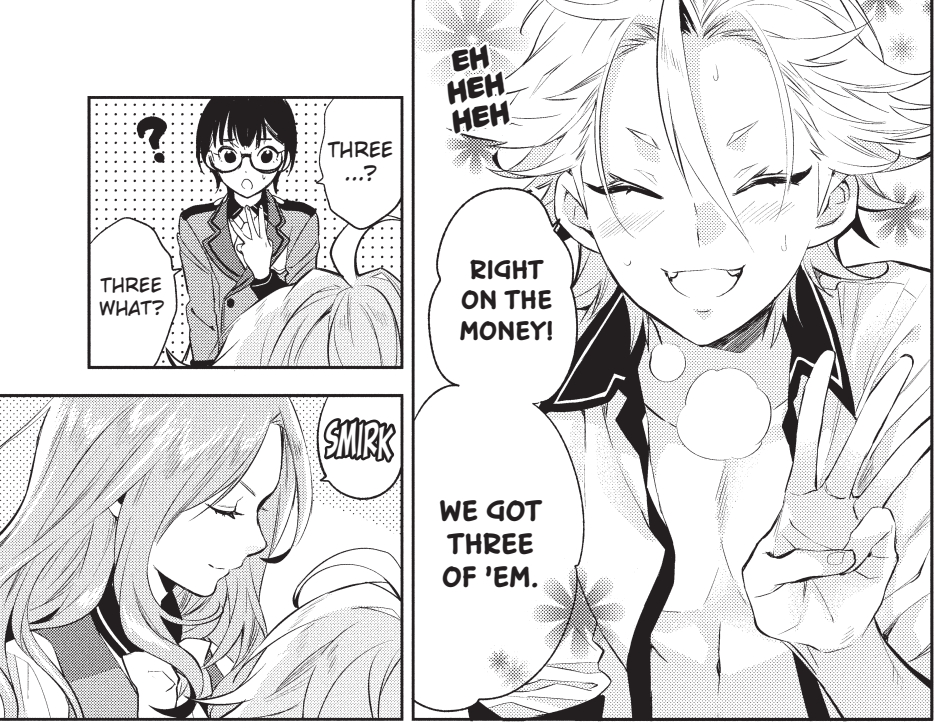


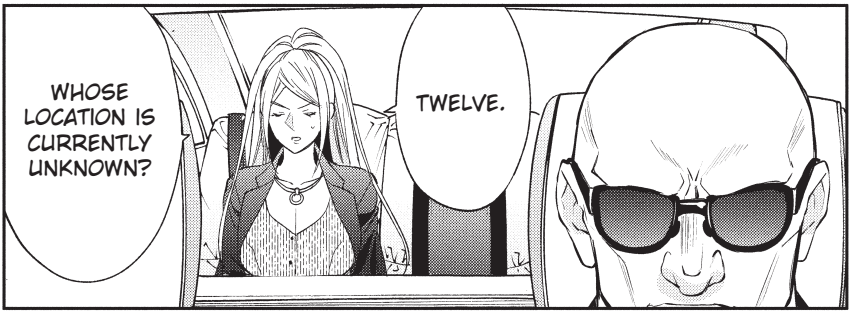

?!

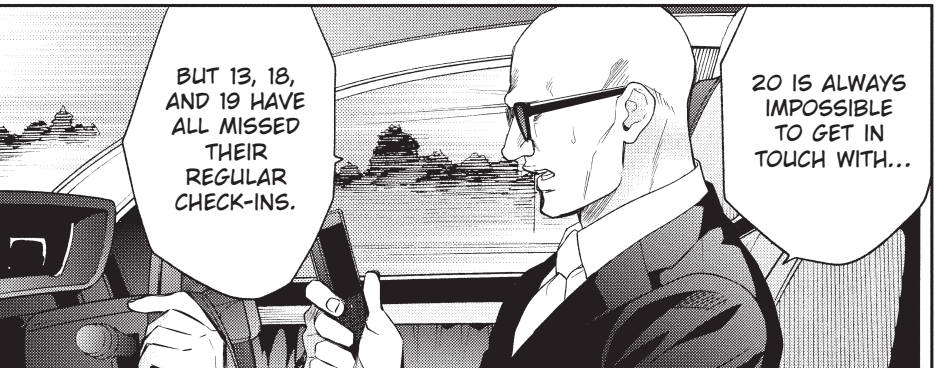
ONE... NO.
TWO? NO, WITH YOU IT MUST BE THREE.
OTHERWISE IT WOULDN'T BE AN EVEN TRADE.

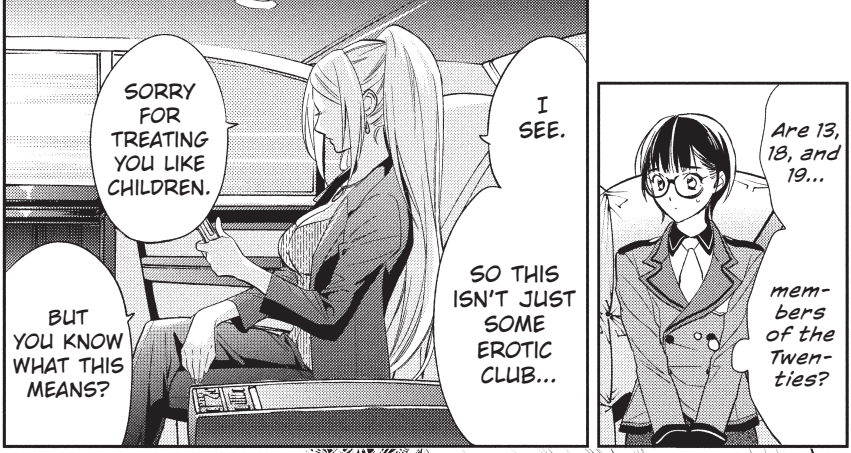
Why does that phone matter?

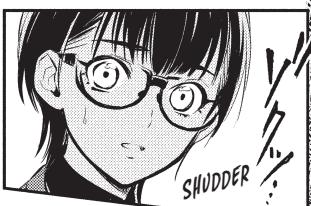
THIS IS...

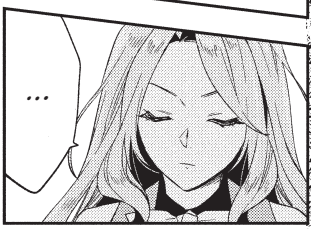

EH HEH HEH
RIGHT ON THE MONEY!
WE GOT THREE OF 'EM.
THREE ...?
THREE WHAT?
?
SMIRK

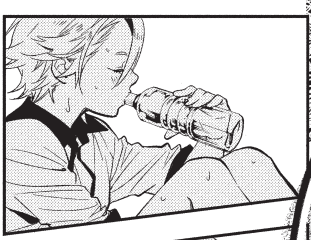

WHOSE LOCATION IS CURRENTLY UNKNOWN?
TWELVE.


BUT 13, 18, AND 19 HAVE ALL MISSED THEIR REGULAR CHECK-INS.
20 IS ALWAYS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH...


SORRY FOR TREATING YOU LIKE CHILDREN.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?
I SEE.
SO THIS ISN'T JUST SOME EROTIC CLUB...
Are 13, 18, and 19...
members of the Twenties?


SHUDDER


...



FOR US TO TREAT YOU LIKE ADULTS?

BZZ
19 IS CALLING 13'S PHONE...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE MAKING ONE OF MY STAFF CALL ME.
OR YOU GOT 19'S PASSWORD AND ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE IS CALLING...
EITHER WAY, BEING FORCED TO TALK BY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER IS A NEW ONE ON ME.
Ladies and Gentlemen, I am the vice president of the Pretty Boy Detective Club,
Nagahiro Sakiguchi.
Sakiguchi?!

Our leader,
rapid response officer,
and client are currently enjoying your hospitality, I believe.
THOSE THREE
FOR THE THREE GENTLEMEN WE'RE LOOKING AFTER—
I'd like to propose a deal.

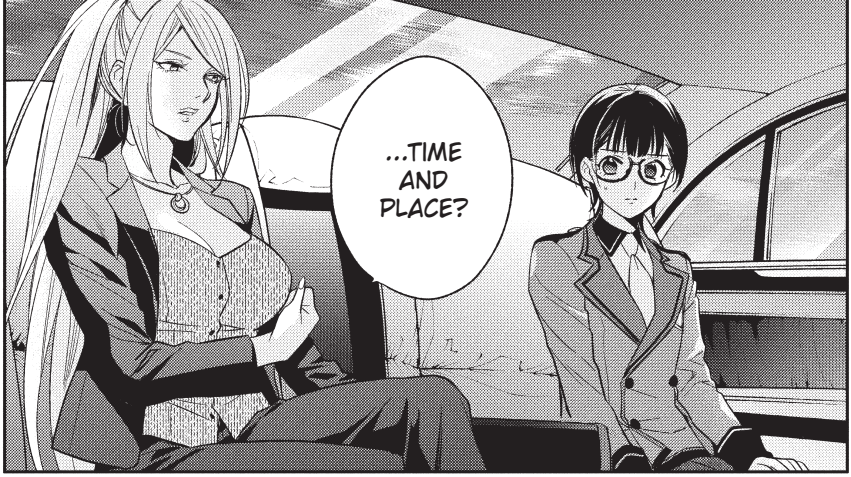
AN EQUAL EXCHANGE.

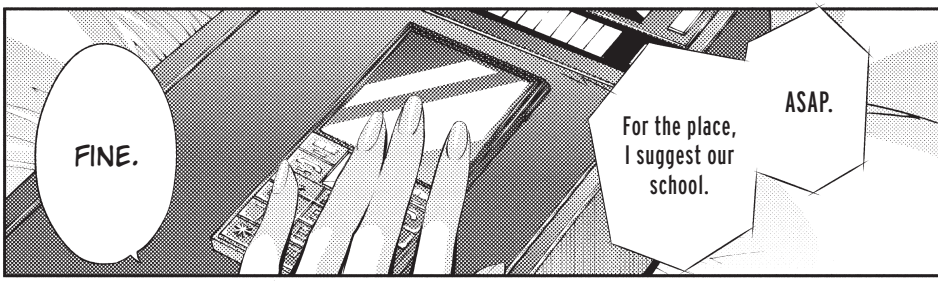
PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

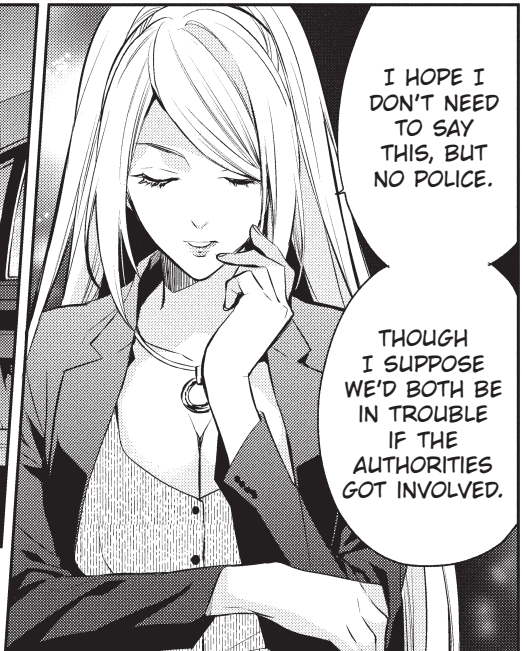
I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE A DEAL.
Our leader, rapid response officer,
and client,
whom you have in your care,
for...
the three gentlemen we're looking after. An equal exchange.

FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 6

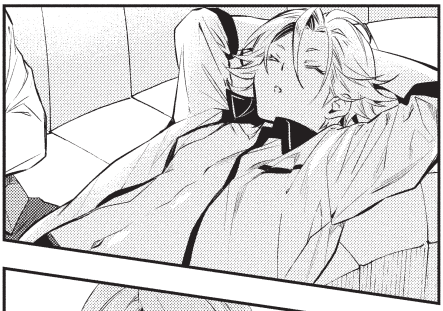

...TIME AND PLACE?

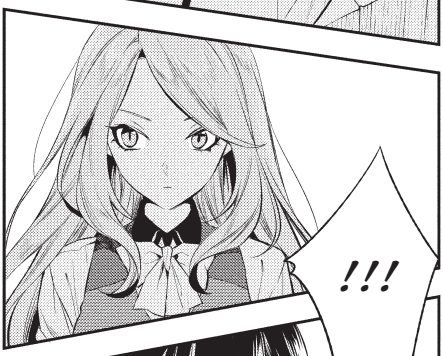

FINE.
For the place, I suggest our school.
ASAP.

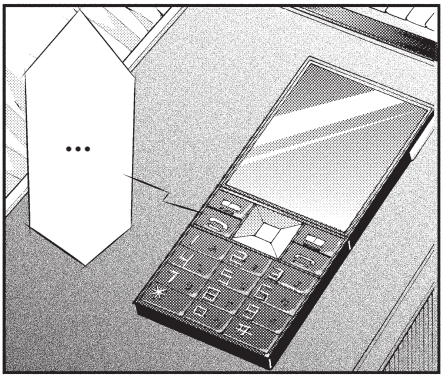
...
...?


I HOPE I DON'T NEED TO SAY THIS, BUT NO POLICE.
THOUGH I SUPPOSE WE'D BOTH BE IN TROUBLE IF THE AUTHORITIES GOT INVOLVED.

THIS IS BETWEEN THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB AND THE TWENTIES.
OF COURSE.
Three for three, that's all we ask.
This is strictly a business deal, no strings attached.
How does he know their name?!
BUT IF YOU HURT ANYONE ON MY TEAM,
OKAY. THAT'S ALL WE WANT, TOO.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR PEOPLE'S SAFETY.
OR, TO BE CLEAR...
He really is the brains of the club!!







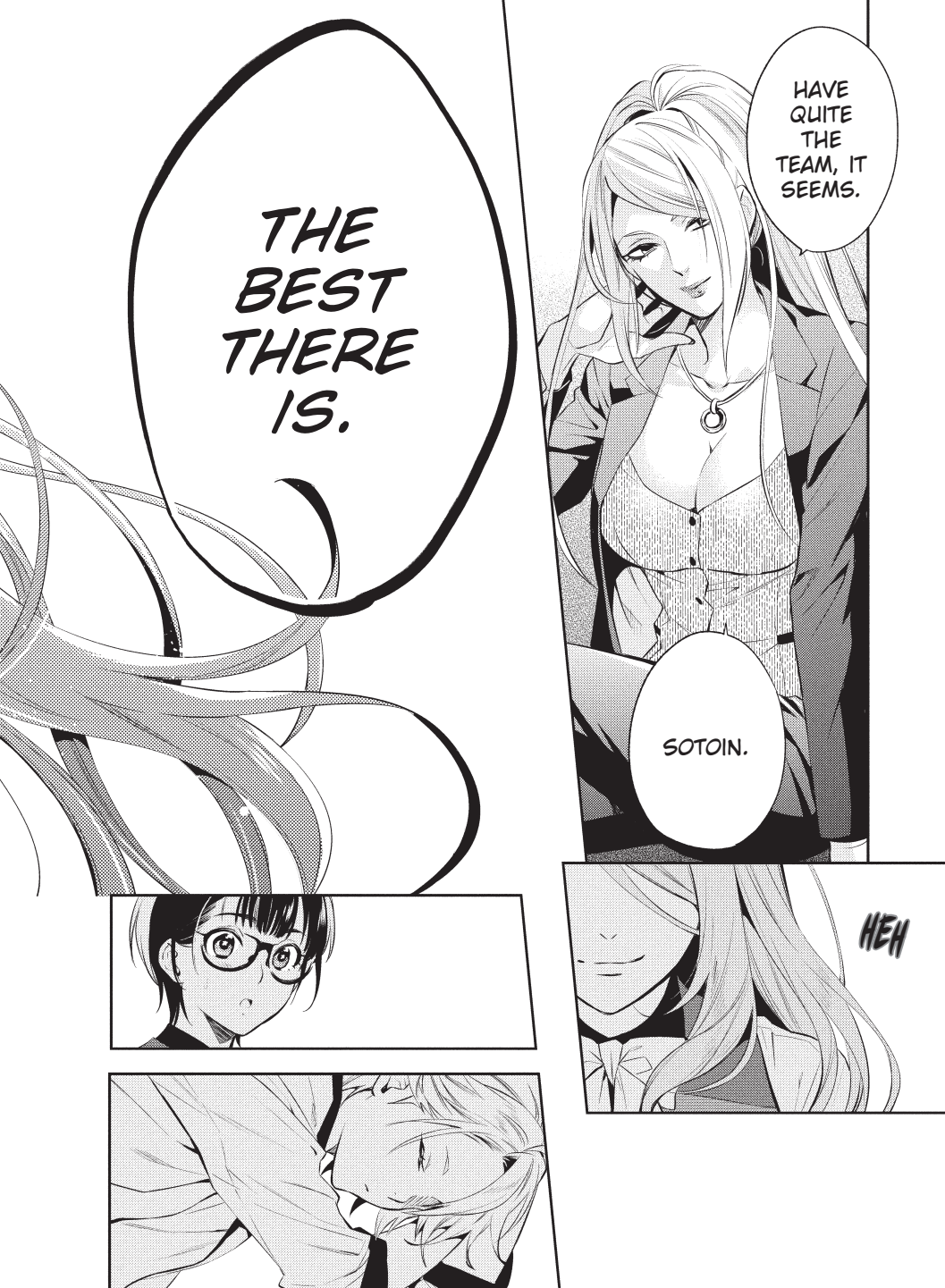
I'LL KILL

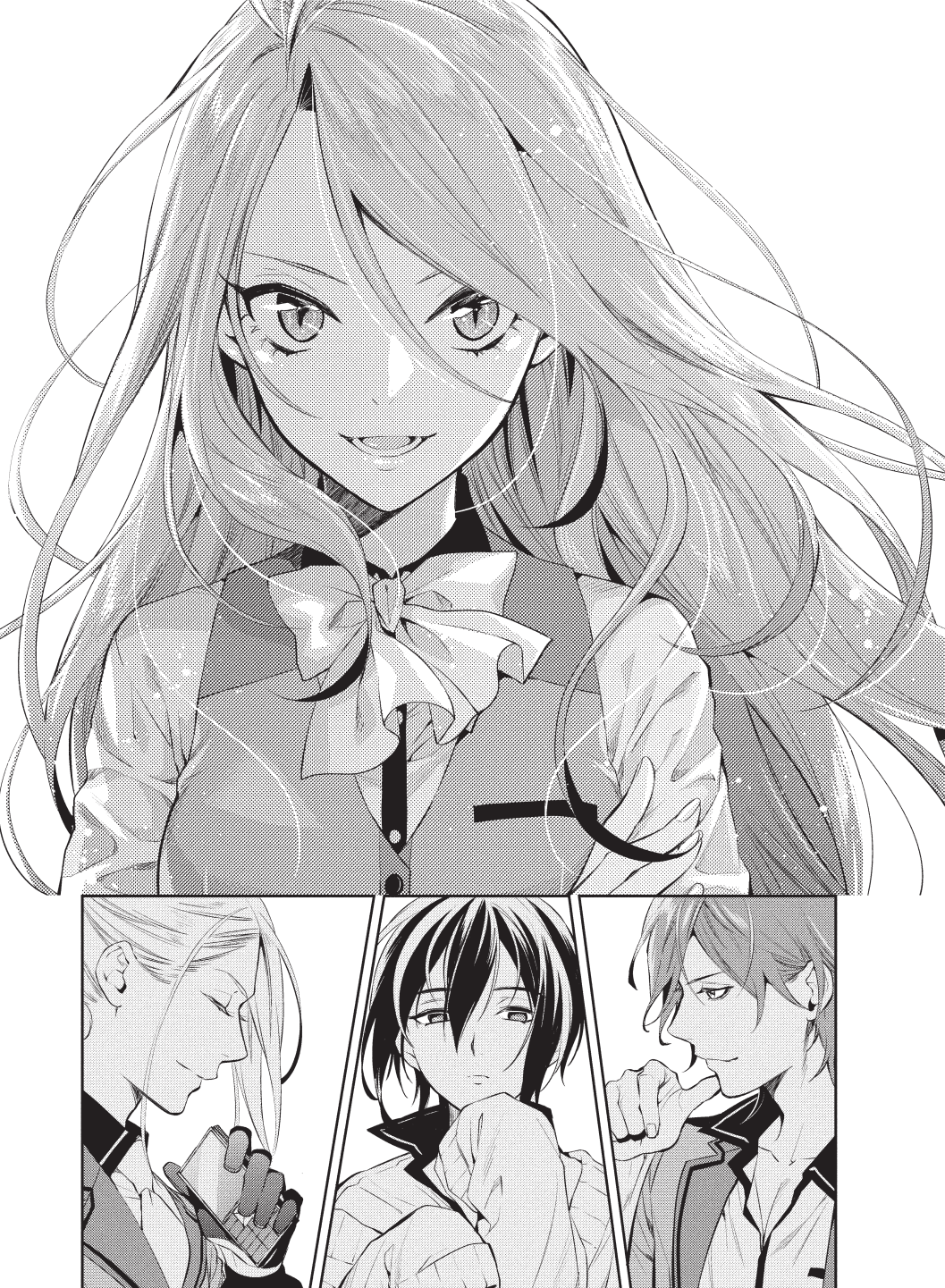
ALL THREE OF THEM.

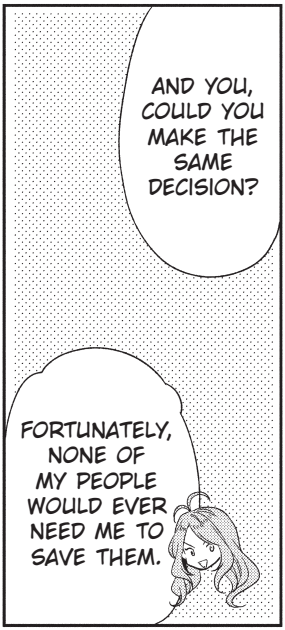
WE'VE TIED UP THE PRISONERS, OF COURSE,
BUT WE INTEND THEM NO GREAT HARM.
We are treating them with all possible hospitality.
So—
That's my line!
That voice...
It's Fukuroi!!
GRAB
ガシ
Don't act so aloof, lady!
You're like one of those people who talks about personal responsibility while saying irresponsible things like,
"Anyone who uses that kind of app has to take responsibility for the consequences."
Satire at a time like this...?!

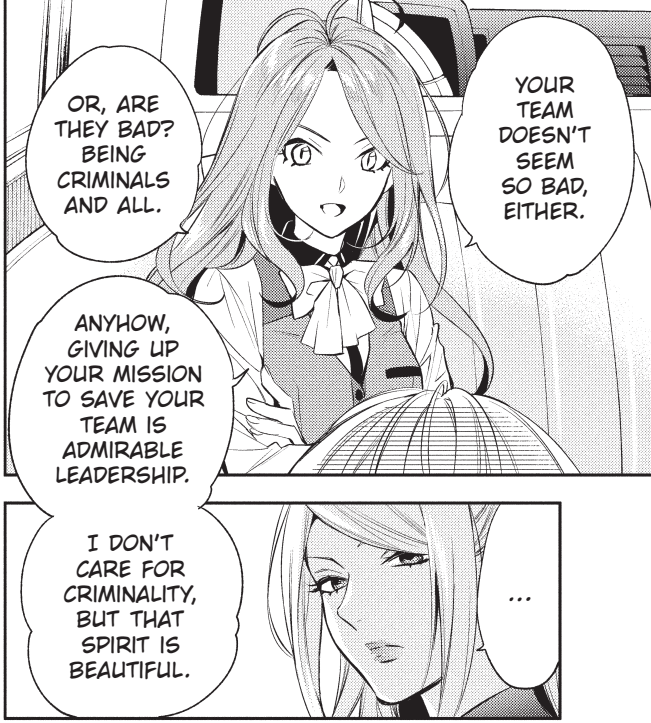
Touch one hair on Dojima's head,
or Hyota's,
OR THE LEADER'S,
AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO FIND YOU
AND KILL YOU.
FORGET ABOUT THAT.

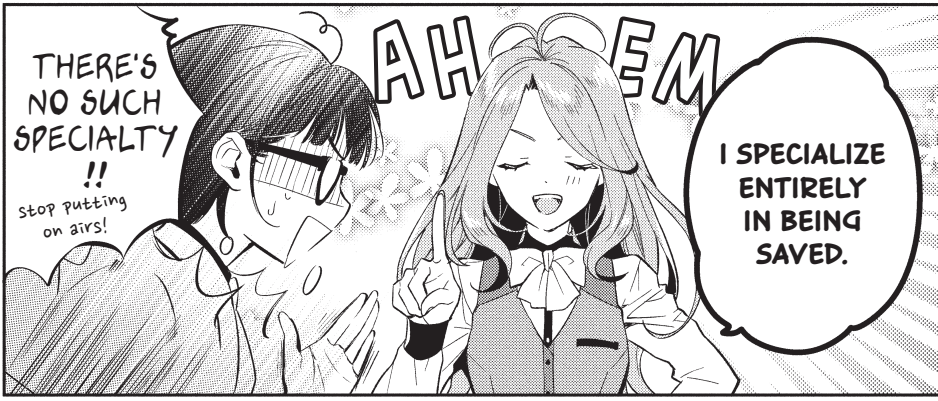
He's on his own planet!
I feel like Chinese a...?!
I FEEL LIKE CHINESE TONIGHT!
BAM
JUST GET DINNER READY.
No, probably not...
DO I EVER NOT SOUND LIKE MYSELF?
SURE.
Oh, you sound like your usual self.
Of course.
Please call this phone when you're nearby.
Take ca—
CLICK
WE'LL HEAD TOWARD THE SCHOOL NOW,
IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU.
YOU...
SHFF

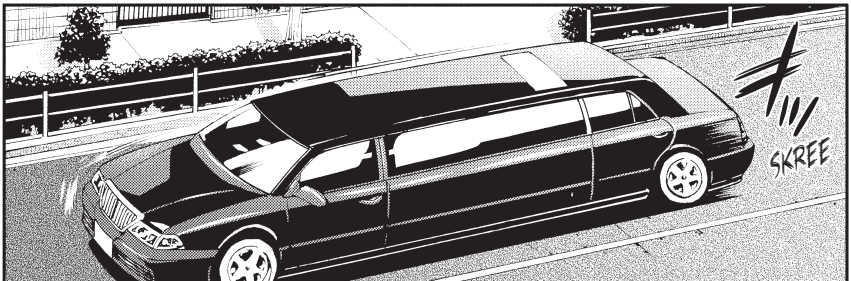

THE BEST THERE IS.
HAVE QUITE THE TEAM, IT SEEMS.
SOTOIN.
HEH



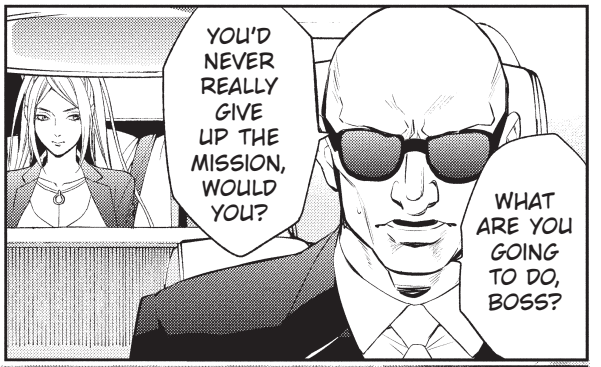

AND YOU, COULD YOU MAKE THE SAME DECISION?
FORTUNATELY, NONE OF MY PEOPLE WOULD EVER NEED ME TO SAVE THEM.


YOUR TEAM DOESN'T SEEM SO BAD, EITHER.
OR, ARE THEY BAD? BEING CRIMINALS AND ALL.
ANYHOW, GIVING UP YOUR MISSION TO SAVE YOUR TEAM IS ADMIRABLE LEADERSHIP.
I DON'T CARE FOR CRIMINALITY, BUT THAT SPIRIT IS BEAUTIFUL.
...

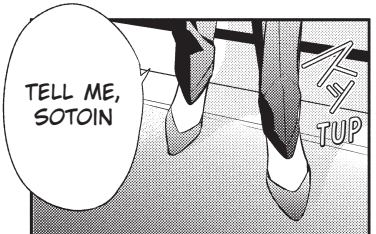

AHEM
THERE'S NO SUCH SPECIALTY !!
stop putting on airs!
I SPECIALIZE ENTIRELY IN BEING SAVED.


SKREE

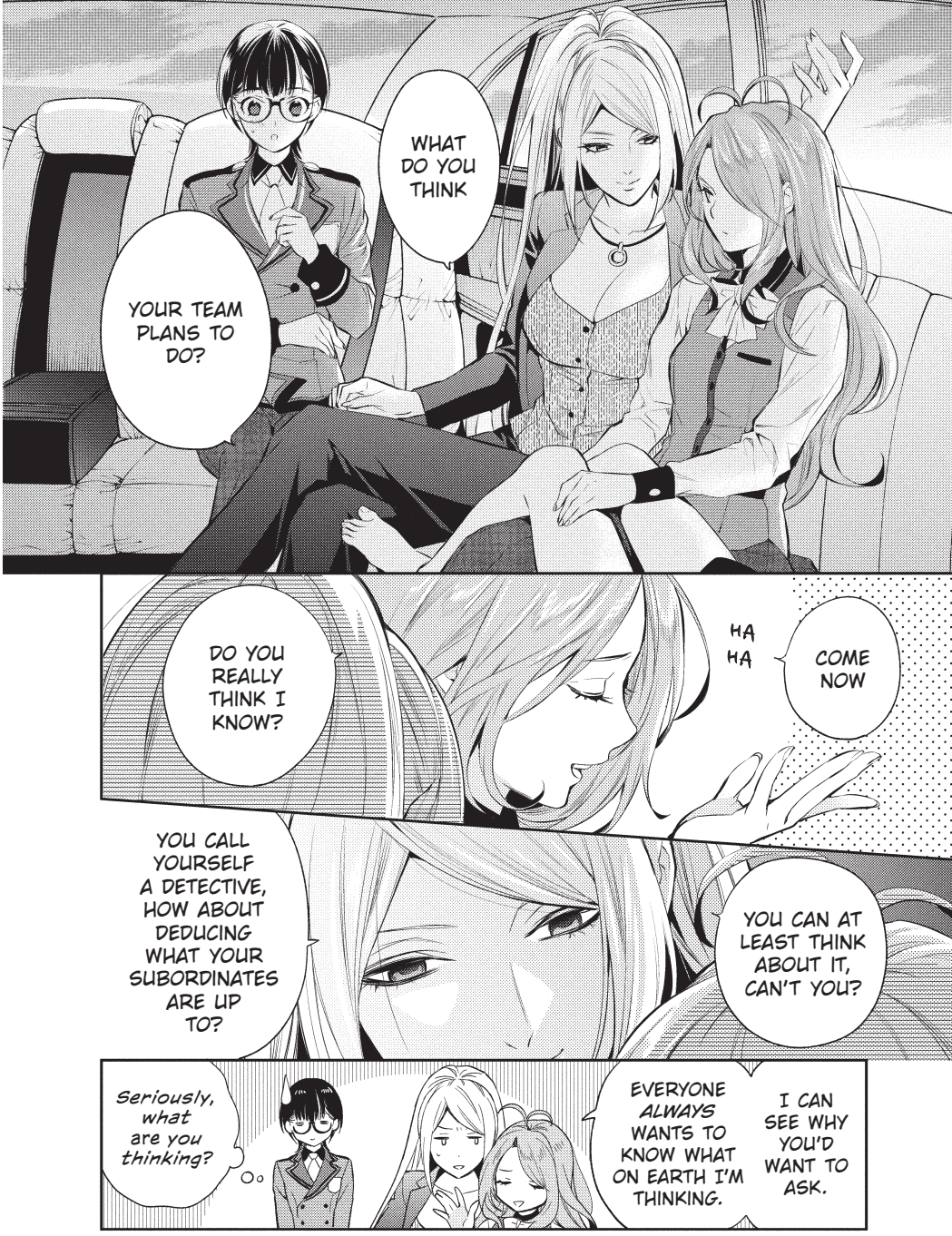
NEVER...


YOU'D NEVER REALLY GIVE UP THE MISSION, WOULD YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, BOSS?

AND IF THEY HONESTLY PLAN TO COMPLETE THE EXCHANGE
LIKE GOOD LITTLE CHILDREN, THEN THEY'RE A DULL CROWD.
BUT OUR OPPONENTS WILL HAVE GUESSED
THAT WE DON'T PLAN TO GIVE UP...

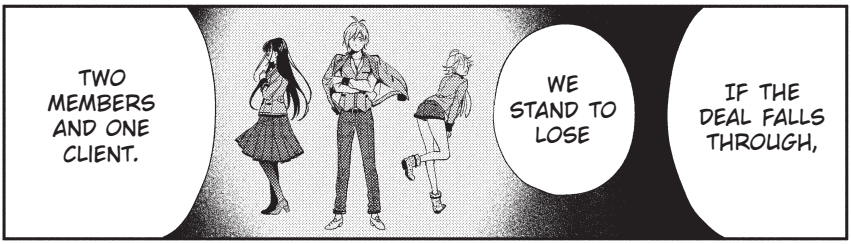

TELL ME, SOTOIN
TUP

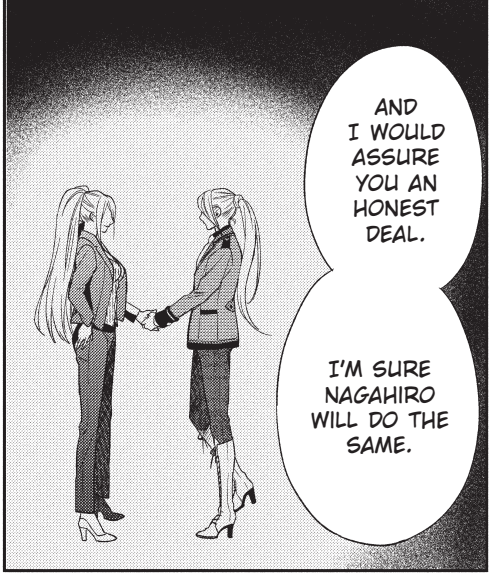
FORGET IT. WE'RE BOYS.
AND BOYS WILL BE BOYS.


WHAT DO YOU THINK
YOUR TEAM PLANS TO DO?
HA HA
COME NOW
DO YOU REALLY THINK I KNOW?
YOU CAN AT LEAST THINK ABOUT IT, CAN'T YOU?
YOU CALL YOURSELF A DETECTIVE, HOW ABOUT DEDUCING WHAT YOUR SUBORDINATES ARE UP TO?
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D WANT TO ASK.
EVERYONE ALWAYS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT ON EARTH I'M THINKING.
Seriously, what are you thinking?

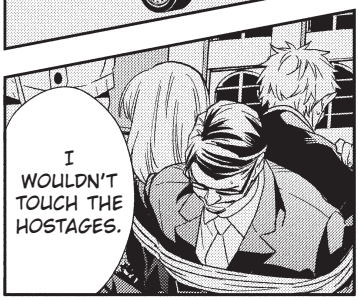
...SO. THREE HOSTAGES FOR THREE HOSTAGES.

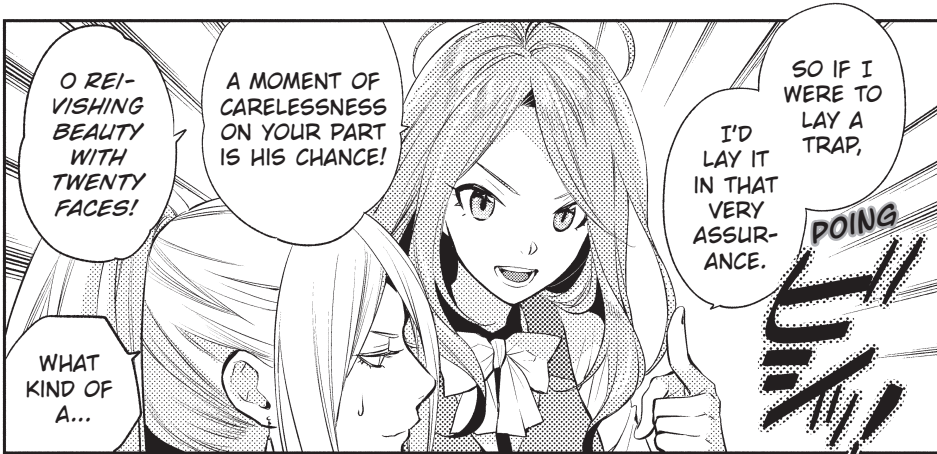
IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EQUAL EXCHANGE, BUT THE RISK ISN'T THE SAME ON BOTH SIDES.




AND I WOULD ASSURE YOU AN HONEST DEAL.
I'M SURE NAGAHIRO WILL DO THE SAME.

I WOULDN'T CALL IN THE POLICE.


I WOULDN'T TOUCH THE HOSTAGES.

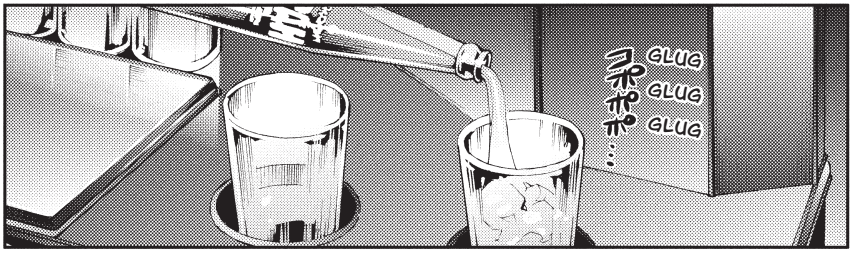

O REI-VISHING BEAUTY WITH TWENTY FACES!
A MOMENT OF CARELESSNESS ON YOUR PART IS HIS CHANCE!
SO IF I WERE TO LAY A TRAP,
I'D LAY IT IN THAT VERY ASSUR-ANCE.
POING
WHAT KIND OF A...

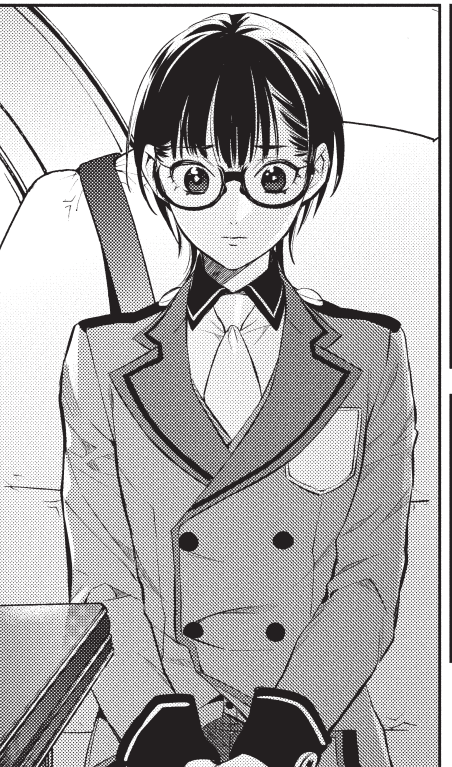
SO? WHAT ASSURANCE WILL HE OFFER? AND WHAT'S THE TRAP?
...WELL, IT'S QUITE AN IDEA.
IT WILL BE A KEEN BATTLE OF WITS!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PROSPECT!
YOUR TASK, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL BE TO TURN THE TRAP AGAINST US—

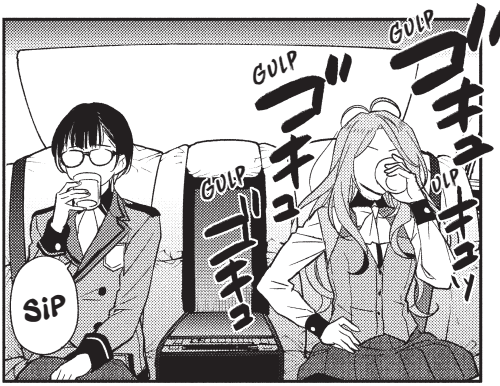
TONIGHT,
I'M HAVING CHINESE FOOD FOR DINNER!
BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING FOR SURE.
huh?
He has no idea?!
DON'T ASK ME!
WHAT MIGHT THAT BE...?
...?
SMIRK
ニヤッ

VRRRRM
Will they really pull this off?

LOOK!
THIS MINIBAR DOESN'T JUST HAVE WATER, IT'S GOT LOADS OF JUICE, TOO!
THIRSTY ?
I'm so anxious, and he's so relaxed...
OH, UH HUH...


GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
ポポポ…




GULP
ゴキュ
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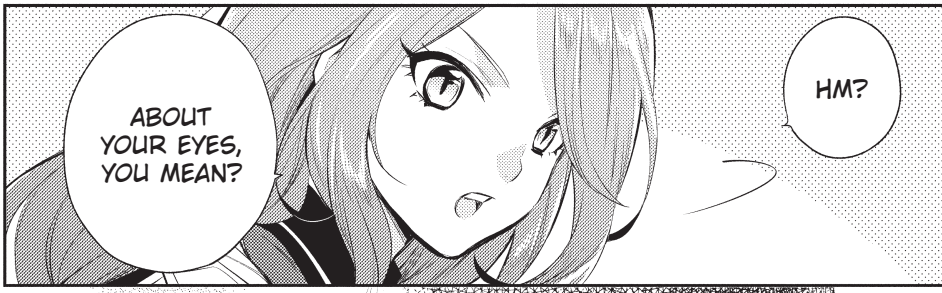
GULP
ゴキュ
GULP
ゴキュ
SIP

CLINK
コト…

...I'M SORRY.

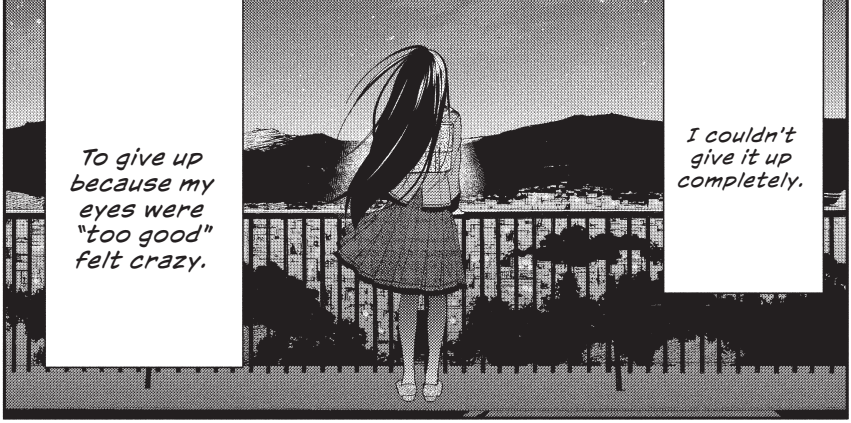

HM?
ABOUT YOUR EYES, YOU MEAN?

I SHOULD HAVE SAID SOME-THING...
YOU NOTICED?
THAT'S WHY YOU GOT MAD WHEN I COMPLI-MENTED THEM?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT NOW IT MAKES SENSE...

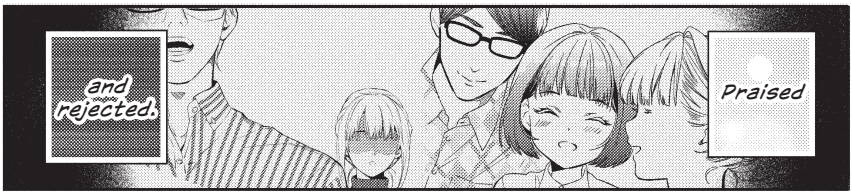
IT'S NOT JUST ME, A LOT OF PEOPLE HATE BEING CALLED BEAUTIFUL.
... STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES ARE SIMILAR, THOUGH.
I CAN SEE GETTING MAD IF SOMEONE CRITICIZES YOUR WEAKNESSES,
BUT I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'D GET MAD THAT I COMPLIMENTED YOUR STRENGTH.
DO THEY?
Figures he wouldn't get it.
BEAUTY ASIDE,
WOULDN'T YOUR EYES BE AN ADVANTAGE FOR AN ASTRONAUT?
WHAT COULD BE BETTER FOR THAT JOB?
SURE.
BUT ...
THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
"Strengths and weaknesses are similar."

MY EYES ARE GOOD.
I CAN SEE PEOPLE HIDING ON THE FAR SIDE OF A WALL,
OR A MILITARY SATELLITE BEING SHOT DOWN.
BUT.
THEY'RE A LITTLE TOO GOOD.
IF I OVERUSE THEM,
I WAS TOLD...
Some-times being too good
I'D GO BLIND BY THE TIME I'M TWENTY...
is worse than being bad.

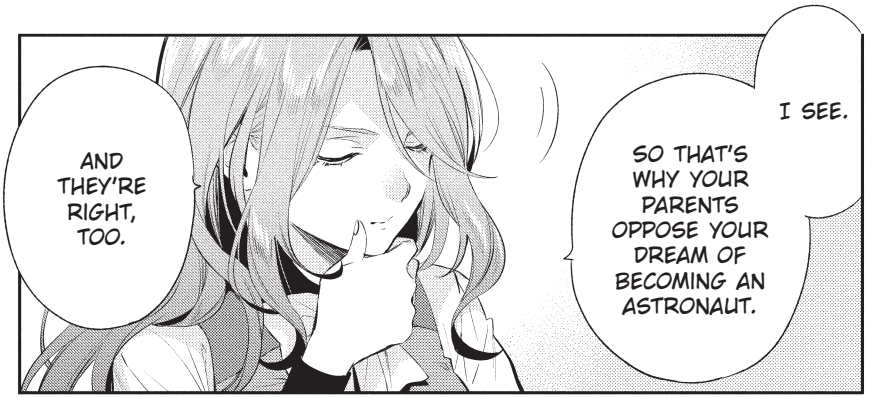
AND
WHY I HAD TO GIVE UP MY DREAM.
CHACK
チャ
THAT'S WHY I PROTECT THEM WITH MY GLASSES.
How could someone who has to be careful about even using a smartphone
dream about the future?
But—
I hadn't made any real effort to be an astronaut.
Which was, in a sense, the same as actively trying to give up my dream.

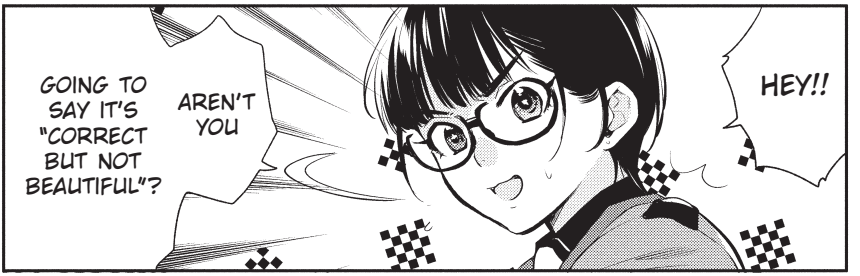

To give up because my eyes were "too good" felt crazy.
I couldn't give it up completely.

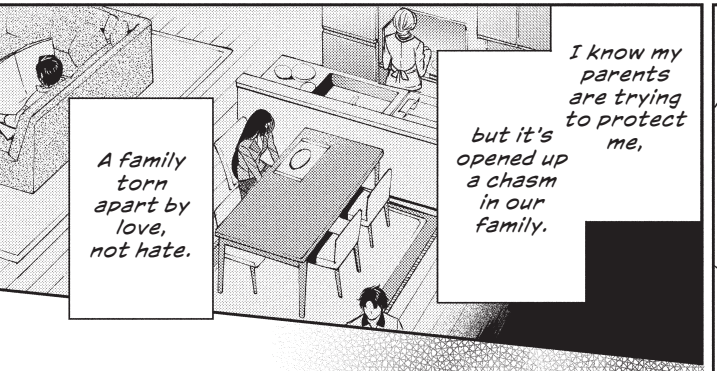
and denied.
Affirmed


and rejected.
Praised

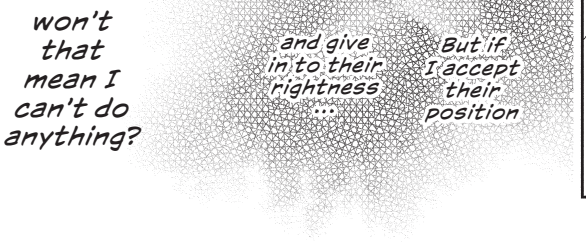
What sort of gift
is that?


I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHY YOUR PARENTS OPPOSE YOUR DREAM OF BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT.
AND THEY'RE RIGHT, TOO.

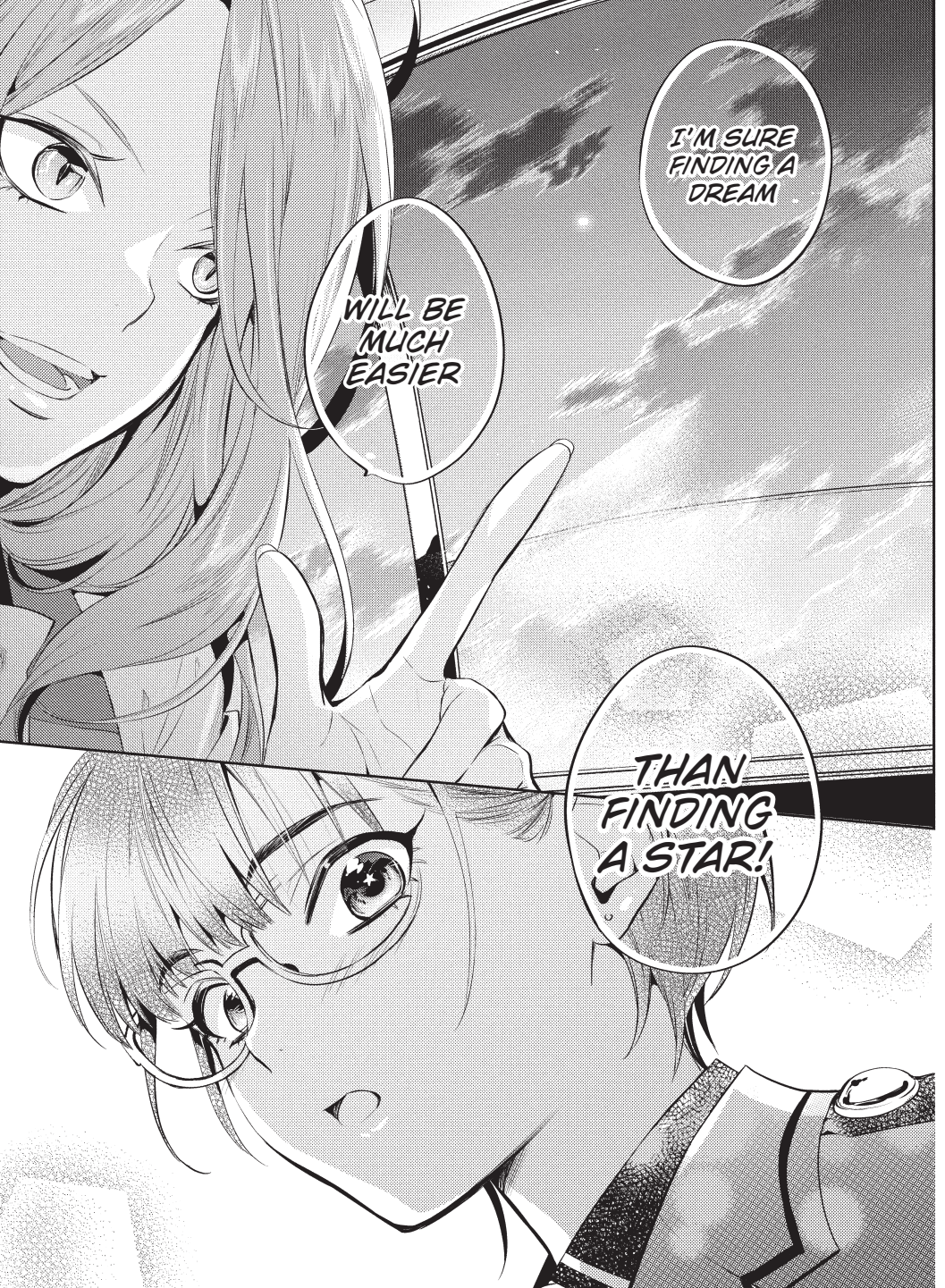

HEY!!
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO SAY IT'S "CORRECT BUT NOT BEAUTIFUL"?

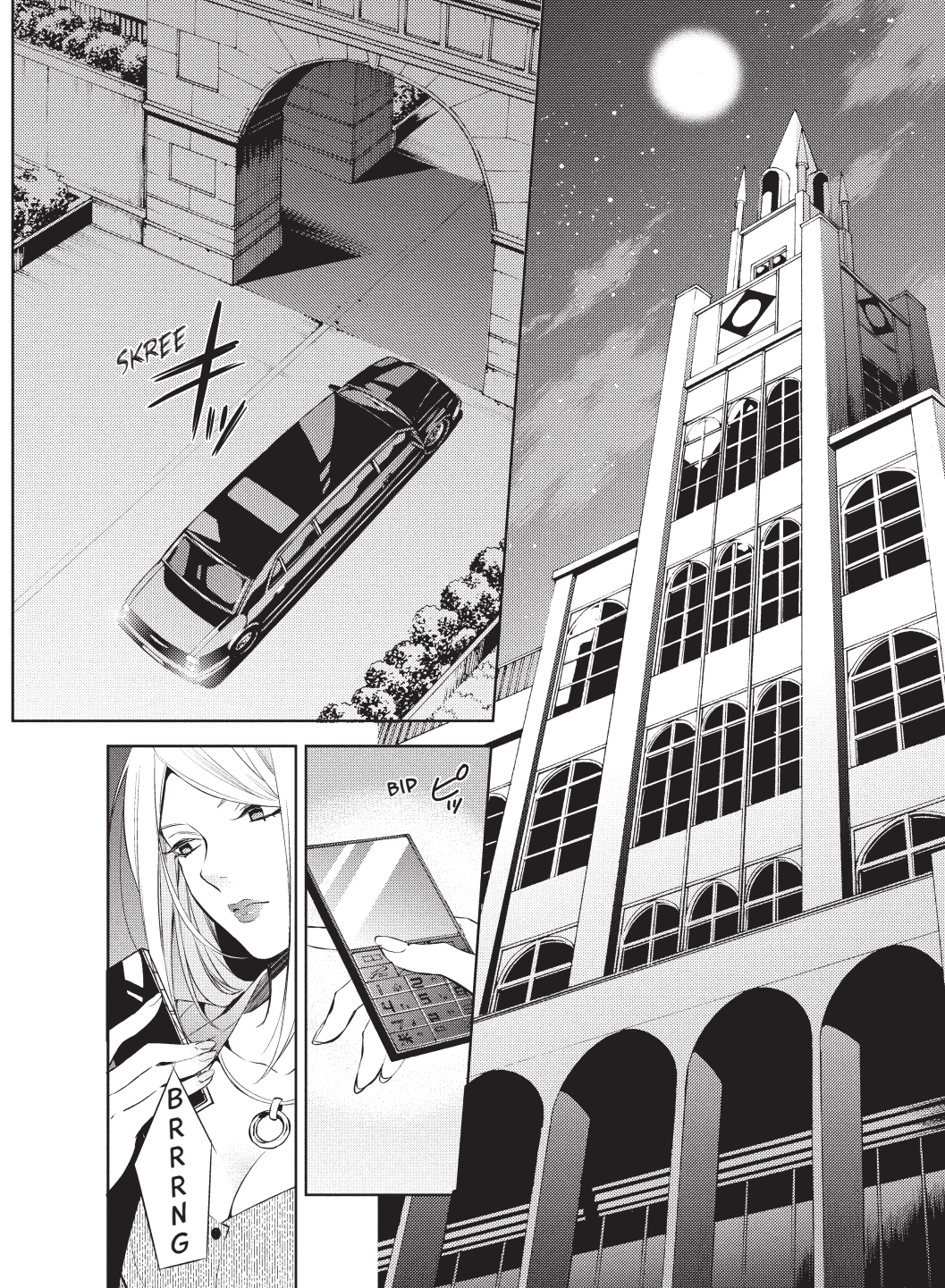

I know my parents are trying to protect me,
but it's opened up a chasm in our family.
A family torn apart by love, not hate.

BOYHOOD AND REBELLIOUS PHASES DON'T ALWAYS OVERLAP.
OH...

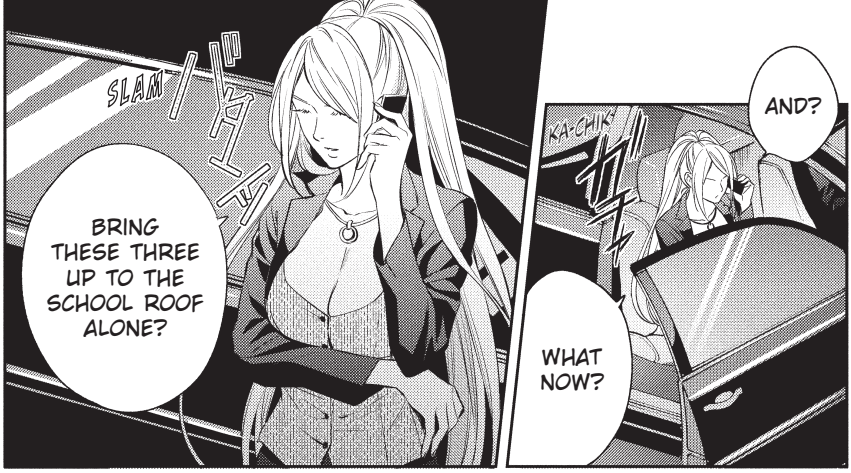

But if I accept their position
and give in to their rightness...
won't that mean I can't do anything?

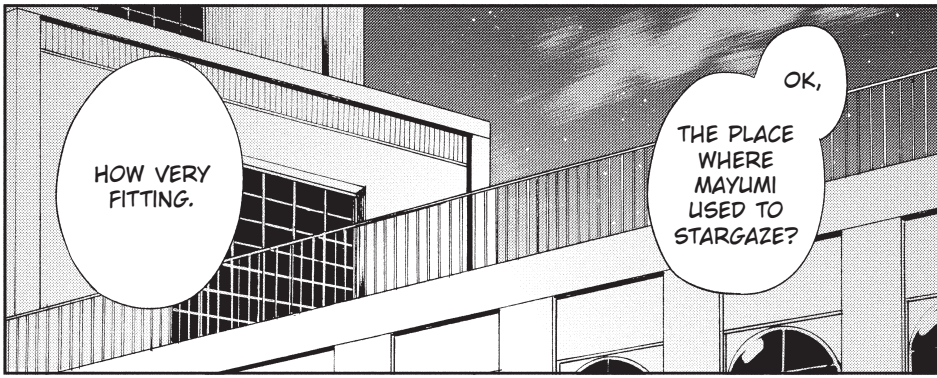
BEING A BOY MEANS DREAMING.
BUT,
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN
THAT YOU NEVER GIVE UP ON A DREAM.
HUH ...?
YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY DREAMS AS YOU WANT.
RELAX,
WHRRRR
YOUNG DOJIMA.


I'M SURE FINDING A DREAM
WILL BE MUCH EASIER
THAN FINDING A STAR!


SKREE
BIP
BRRRNG

That guy must work for Rei...
HELLO?
!!
...I'm sorry, Boss...
BIP
...ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?
IT'S FINE.
UH HUH ...
...
Nasty of Sakiguchi to force a hostage to handle the negotia-tions...
So he kept his promise...
HMM...
THE FACT THAT THE KIDS HAVEN'T CALLED IN THE POLICE IS GOOD NEWS.
WELL,
!

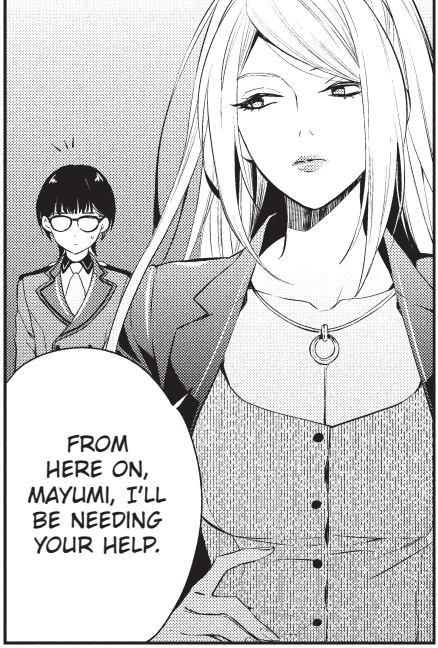

SLAM
BRING THESE THREE UP TO THE SCHOOL ROOF ALONE?
KA-CHIK
AND?
WHAT NOW?

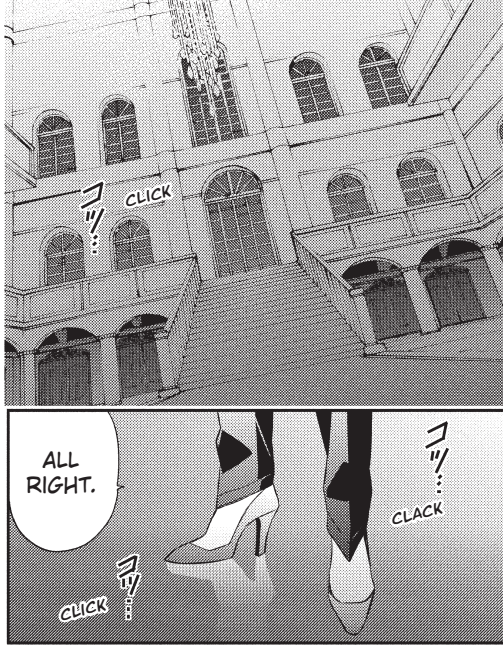

HOW VERY FITTING.
OK, THE PLACE WHERE MAYUMI USED TO STARGAZE?

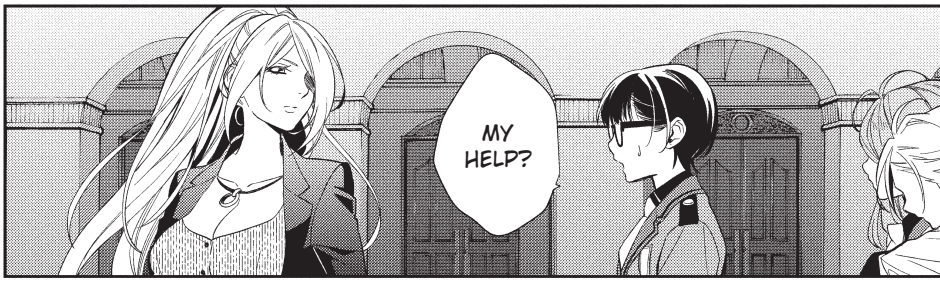
If she finds out...
If Sakiguchi has laid a trap, where could it be?

FINE...
NO, STAY ON THE LINE.
CLICK

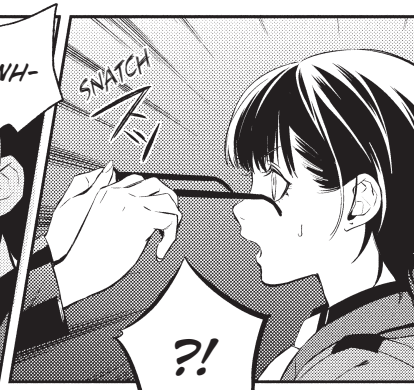
GET OUT.


FROM HERE ON, MAYUMI, I'LL BE NEEDING YOUR HELP.


コツ…
CLICK
ALL RIGHT.
コツ…
CLACK
コツ…
CLICK


MY HELP?

GRAB
くいっ
WH-
WHAT ARE...


SNATCH
スッ
?!

I'LL BE BORROWING YOUR EYES FOR A WHILE.

THE ONES THAT CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS.

THOSE EYES.

...!!!

IF THERE'S A TRAP, SPOT IT FOR ME.

OH, AND YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING— I CAN READ IT IN YOUR FACE.

Not good ...

Saki-guchi doesn't know about my eyes.

He wasn't counting on my eyesight—

Any trap he's come up with didn't take them into account.

So she was listening from the front seat...

GASP

whisper

"ALL CLIENTS LIE."

THE BASIC RULE OF DETECTIVE WORK.

Worst-case scenario, she not only doesn't free us,

she captures the rest of the club, too...

No, even worse— by abusing them!!

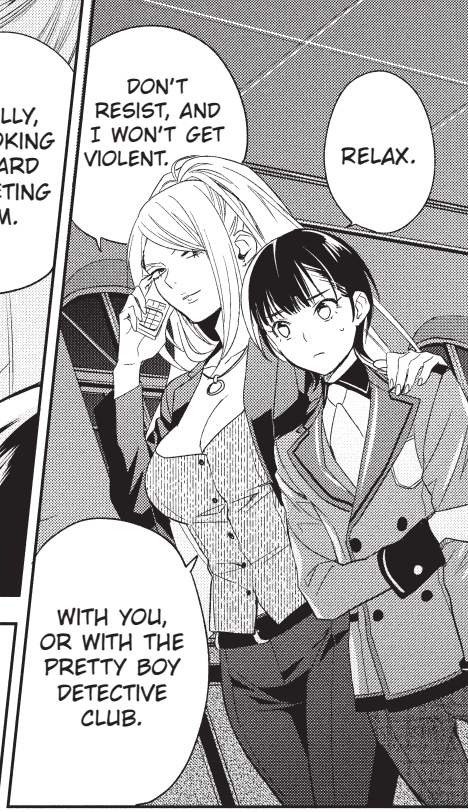
By using... no, misusing, my eyes.

She went along with the negotiations, but she has no intention of giving up her mission...

After she gets her people back, it's business as usual.

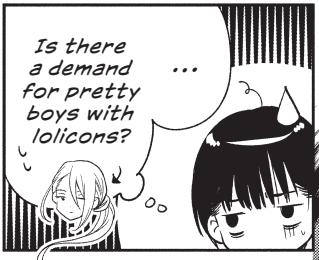
...UNNH ...
If only Sotoin would run
while Rei's attention is fixed on me.
SPIN
These damned eyes of mine
SPIN
SPIN
are getting us up to our eyeballs in trouble!
?
HMPH
Silly me expecting anything from him
Yeah, right.

ACTUALLY, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THEM.
I'M CURIOUS TO SEE IF THEY'RE AS PRETTY AS THE NAME SUGGESTS.


DON'T RESIST, AND I WON'T GET VIOLENT.
RELAX.
WITH YOU, OR WITH THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.

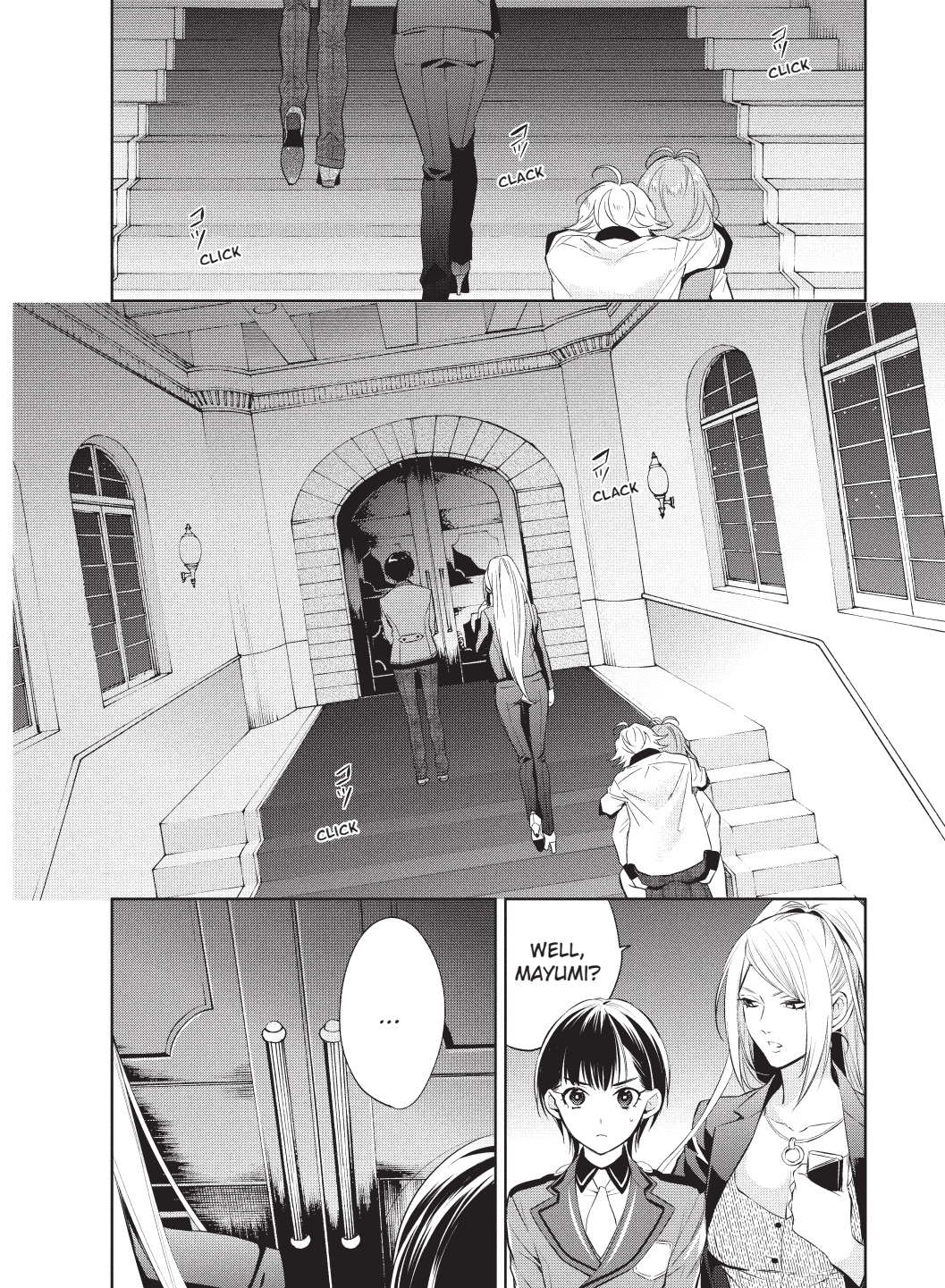
I don't think you'll be disappointed there...

CLICK
HEH HEH
MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME CASH SELLING THEM.
PRETTY BOYS...
CLICK

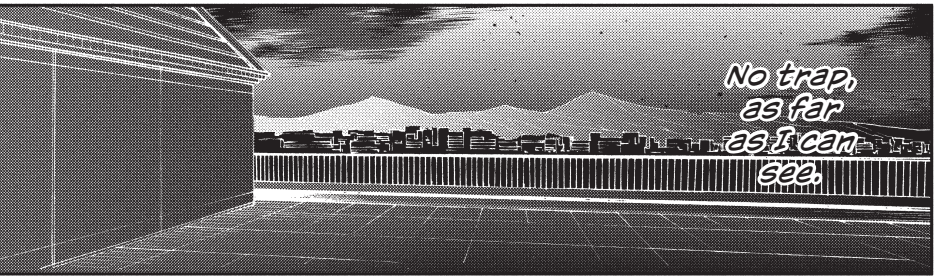

Is there a demand for pretty boys with lolicons?
...

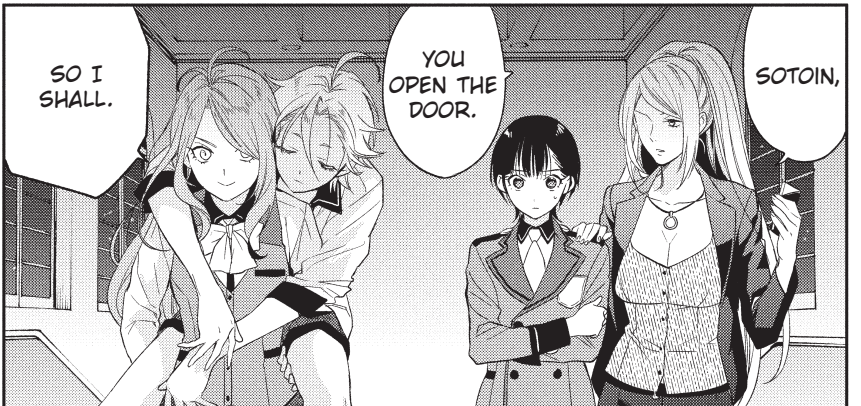
What a creepy thing to say!!
SHUDDER

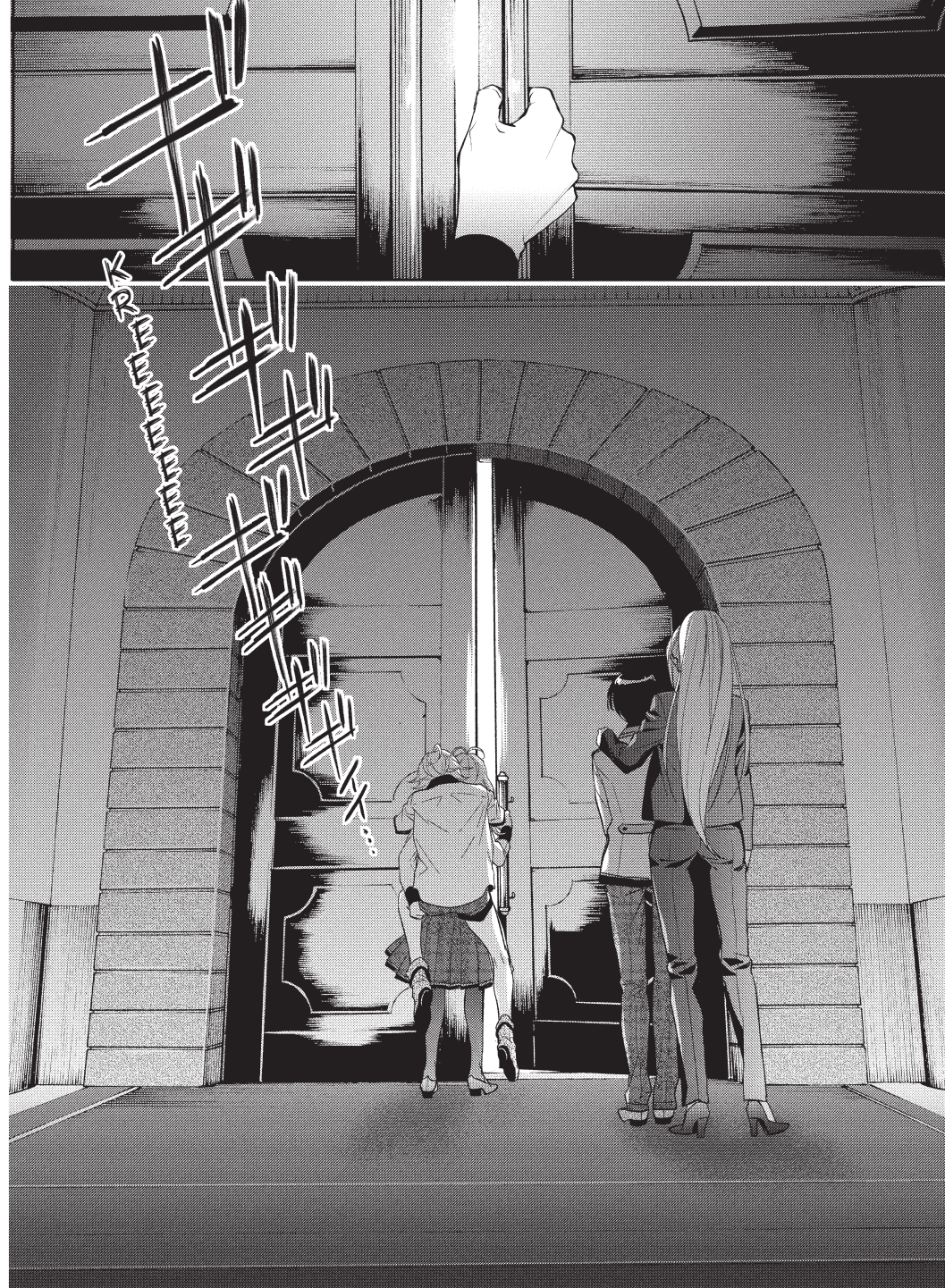
...
So far I don't see anything ahead of us,
or around the corner...
But I doubt our VP
would enter into this without some kind of plan...


フッ
CLICK
フッ
CLACK
フッ
CLICK
フッ
CLACK
フッ
CLICK
...
WELL, MAYUMI?

Three members of the Twenties...
Three members of the Pretty Boy Detective Club...
No one else there...


No trap, as far as I can see.

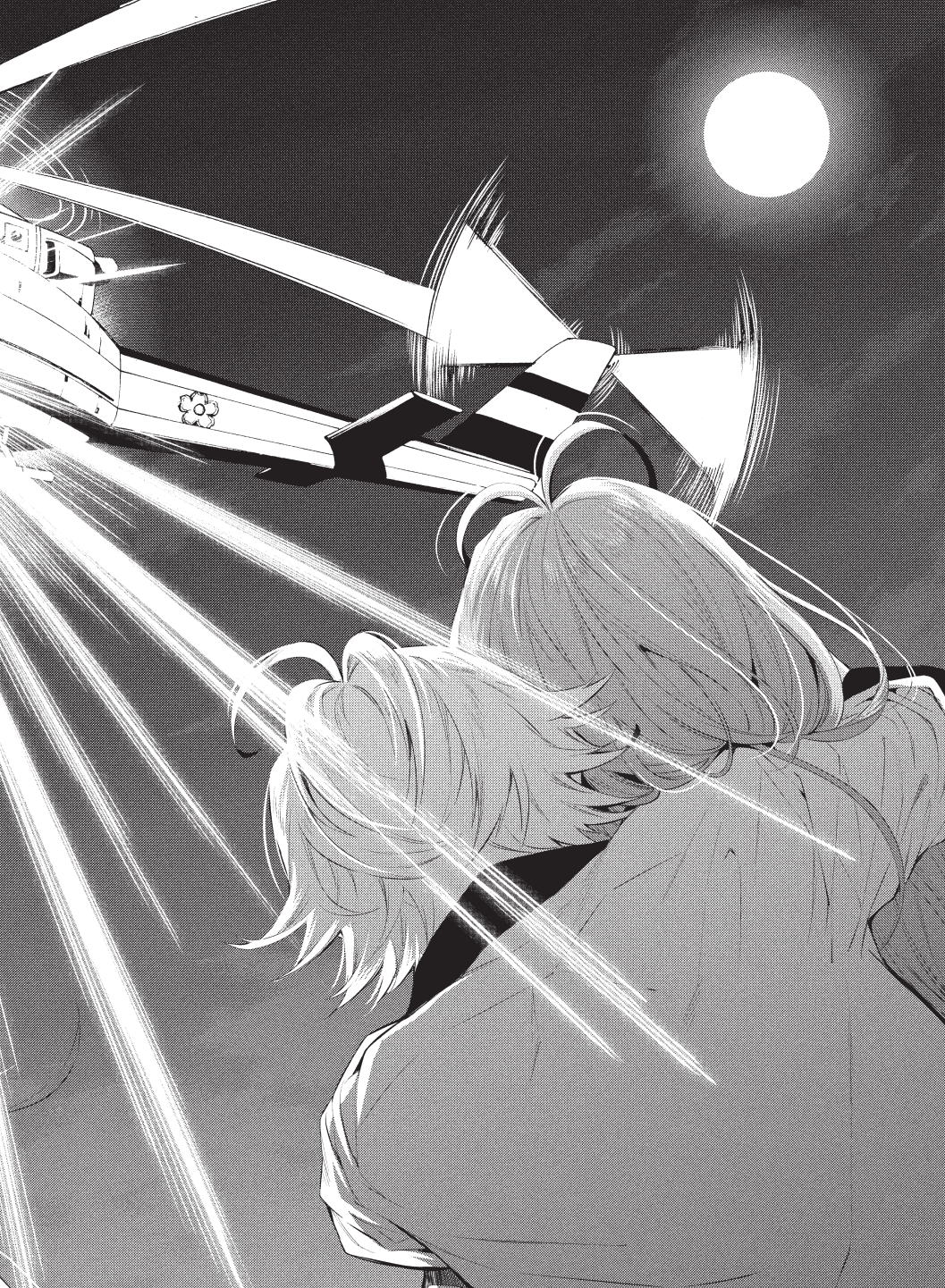

SO I SHALL.
YOU OPEN THE DOOR.
SOTOIN,

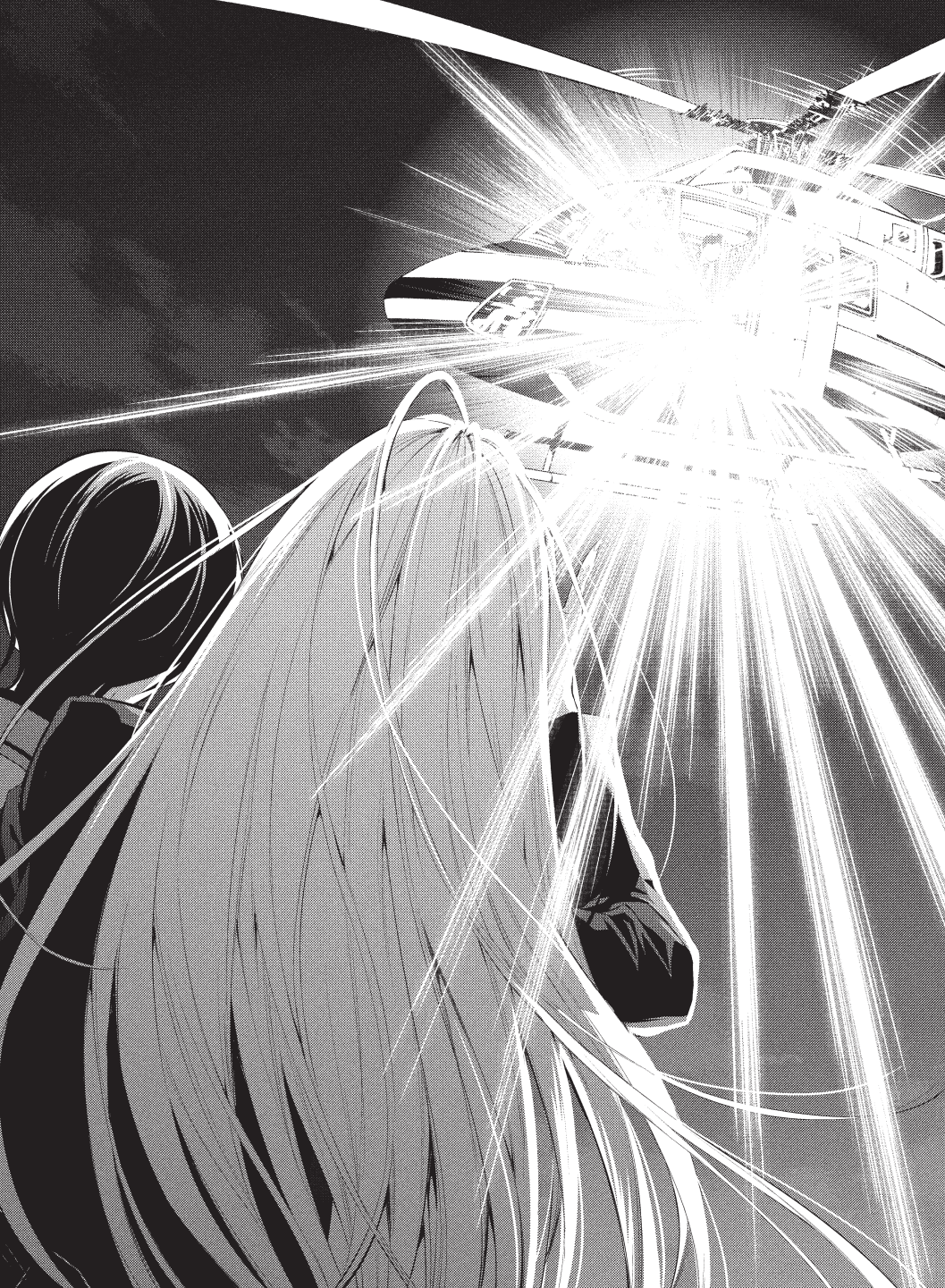

KRRR

FILE ★ The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone 7

!!!
KRREEEEEEEEE
GLARE

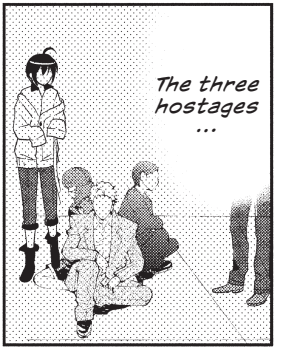
It's so bright!
What the hell—?!

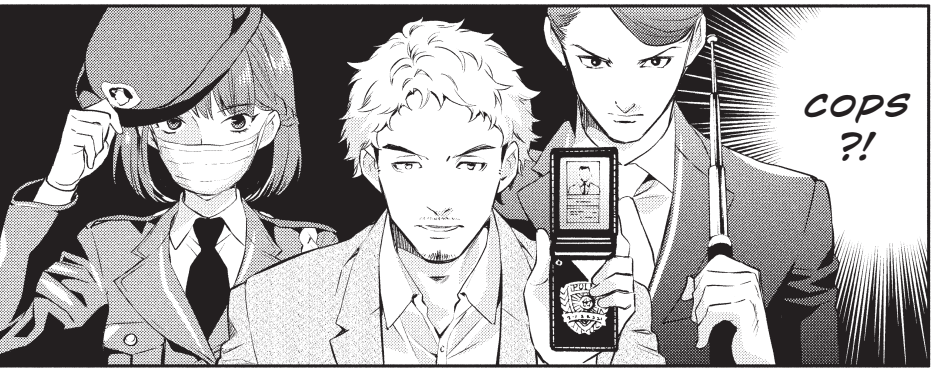


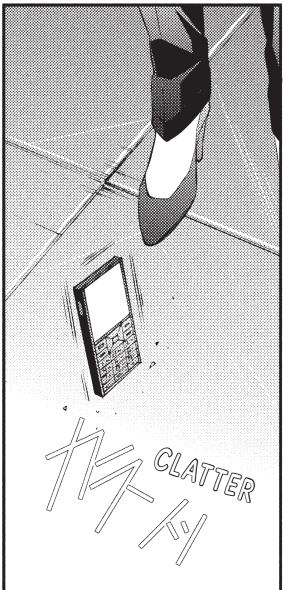


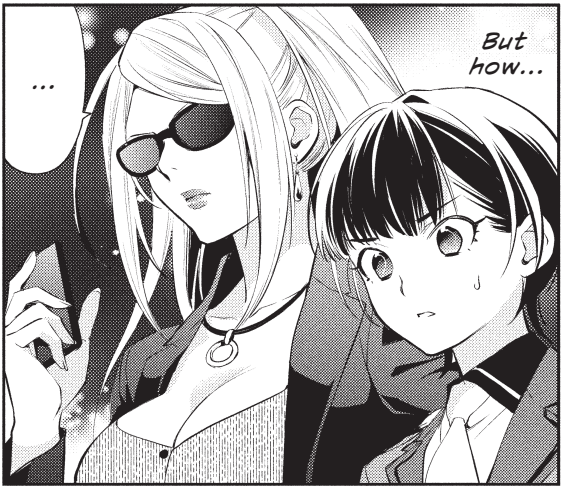
PREFECTURAL POLICE
...!!
GUYS ...!

They're not the members of the Twenties Yubiwa drew!!
スッ
WHIP
They're...


The three hostages ...

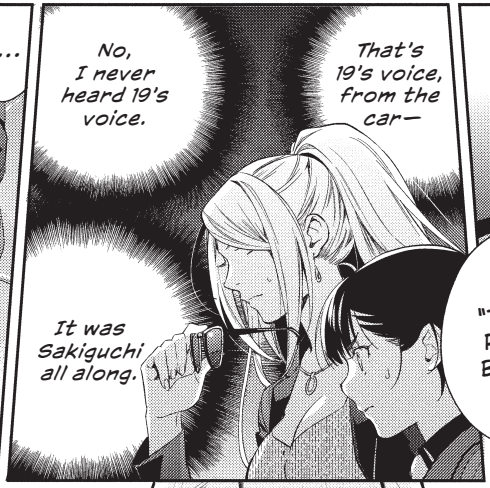

COPS ?!


CLATTER
カチャリ


But how...
...

I SUPPOSE THE WHOLE TIME,
IT WAS YOU I WAS TALKING TO?

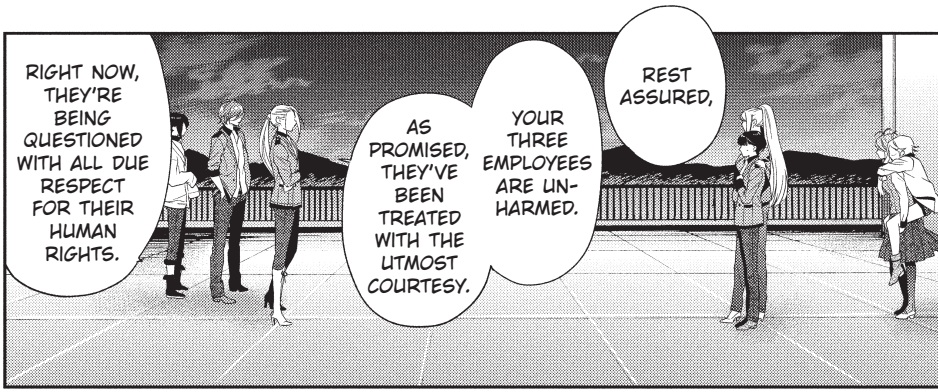
SO...
VOCAL MIMICRY, HUH?

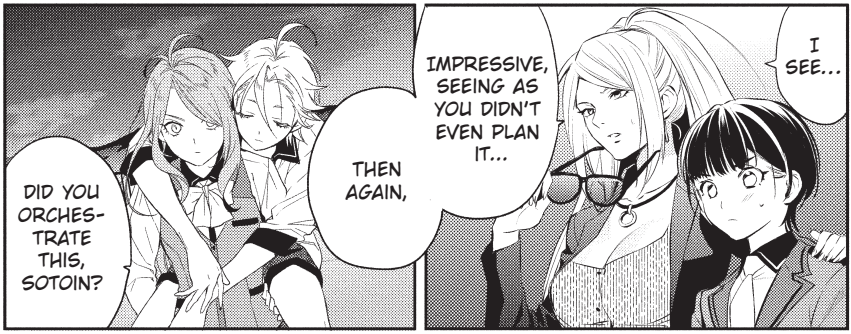

No, I never heard 19's voice.
That's 19's voice, from the car—
It was Sakiguchi all along.

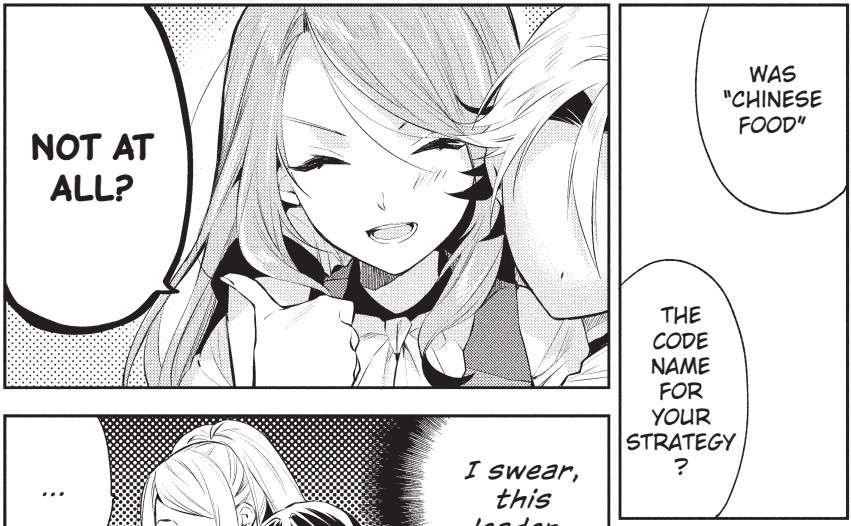
"THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS."

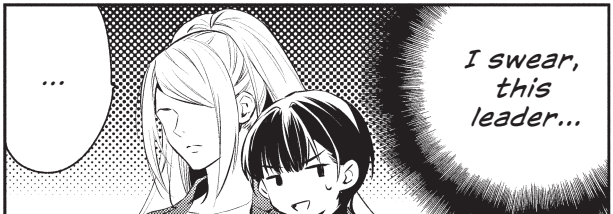
BOSS.
ニヤッ
SMIRK
YES,
THAT'S RIGHT.

Nagahiro the Orator...
He did it to convince her there was no trap on the roof.
He didn't pretend to be 19 to convince Rei the hostages were safe.
The pretty boy with a thousand voices.
Vocal tics and nuances,
word choice and emotion,
the nature of your relation-ship—
Even over the phone,
imper-sonating someone is no joke!


REST ASSURED,
YOUR THREE EMPLOYEES ARE UN-HARMED.
AS PROMISED, THEY'VE BEEN TREATED WITH THE UTMOST COURTESY.
RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE BEING QUESTIONED WITH ALL DUE RESPECT FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

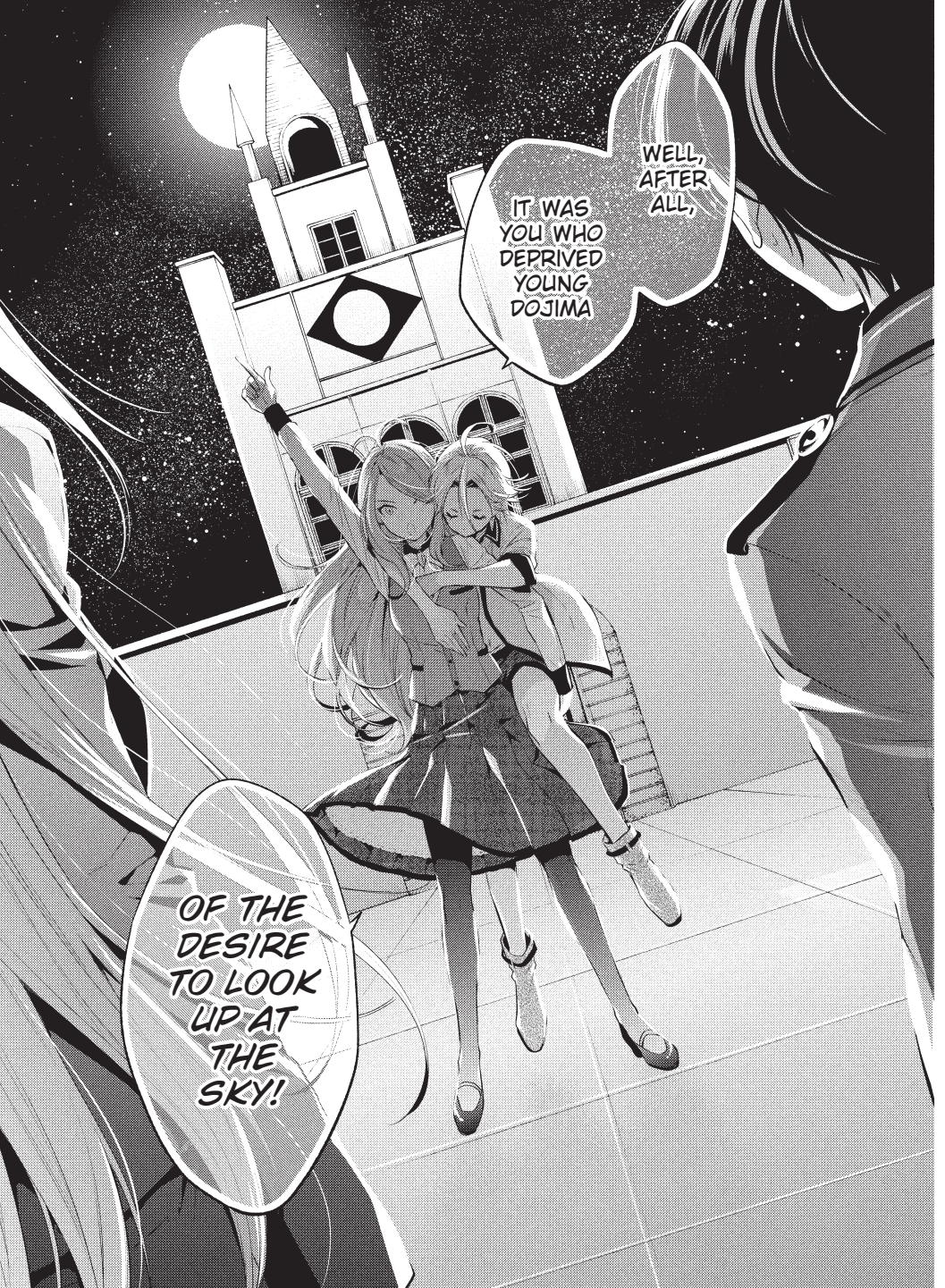

I SEE...
IMPRESSIVE, SEEING AS YOU DIDN'T EVEN PLAN IT...
THEN AGAIN,
DID YOU ORCHES-TRATE THIS, SOTOIN?


WAS "CHINESE FOOD"
THE CODE NAME FOR YOUR STRATEGY?
NOT AT ALL?

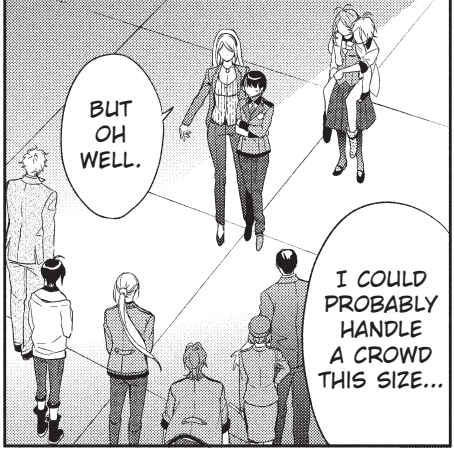

I swear, this leader...
...

...
MAYUMI.
BUT HOW DID THEY FOOL YOU?
I WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THEIR PLAN.
EVEN IF YOU COULDN'T TELL THEY'D SWITCHED THE HOSTAGES THROUGH THAT STEEL DOOR,
WITH YOUR EYES, YOU MUST'VE NOTICED THE HELICOPTER.
It's true...
COME, COME!
HOLD ON, NOW!
So why didn't I see the helicopter hovering over-head...?
Whether I want to or not, I detect people tailing me or lying in wait for me.

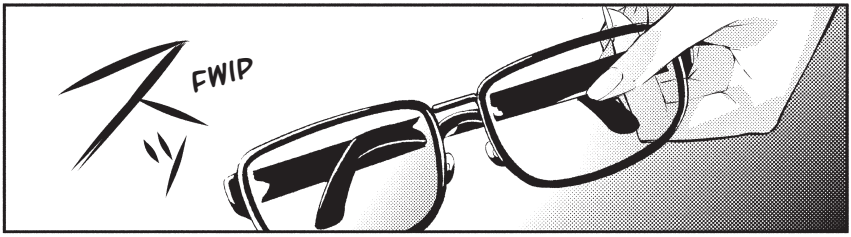
DO YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU DID?
YOU AND YOURS!
POINT
THIS OUTCOME WAS ENTIRELY INEVITABLE, FOR BOTH YOU AND THE STORY!
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BAM

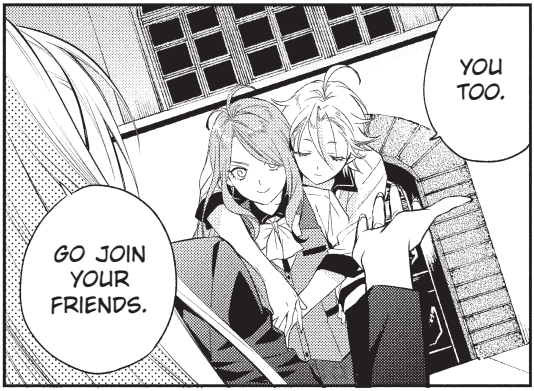

WELL, AFTER ALL,
IT WAS YOU WHO DEPRIVED YOUNG DOJIMA
OF THE DESIRE TO LOOK UP AT THE SKY!

What's that mean...

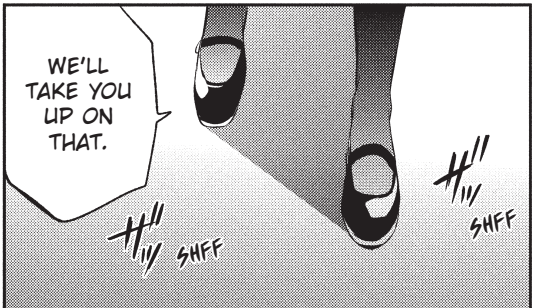

BUT OH WELL.
I COULD PROBABLY HANDLE A CROWD THIS SIZE...

HEH


FWIP


YOU TOO.
GO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS.

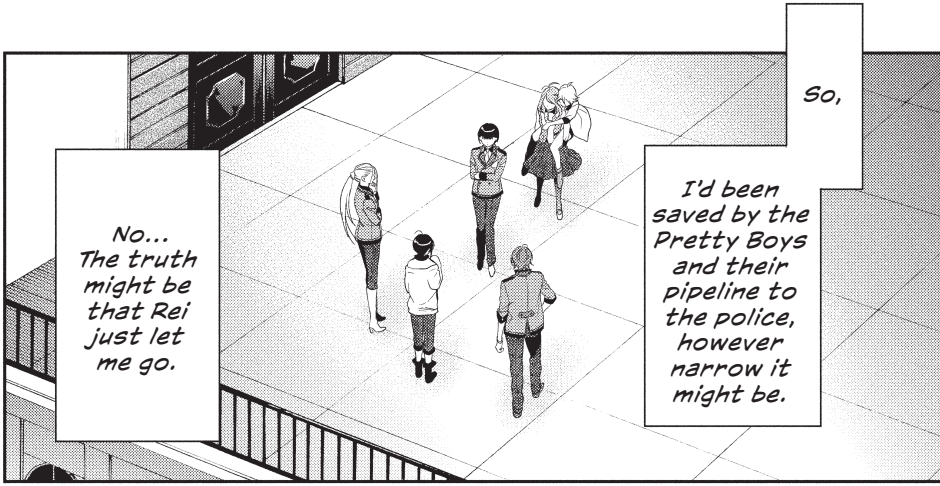
THMP
?!!
YOU CAN GO NOW.

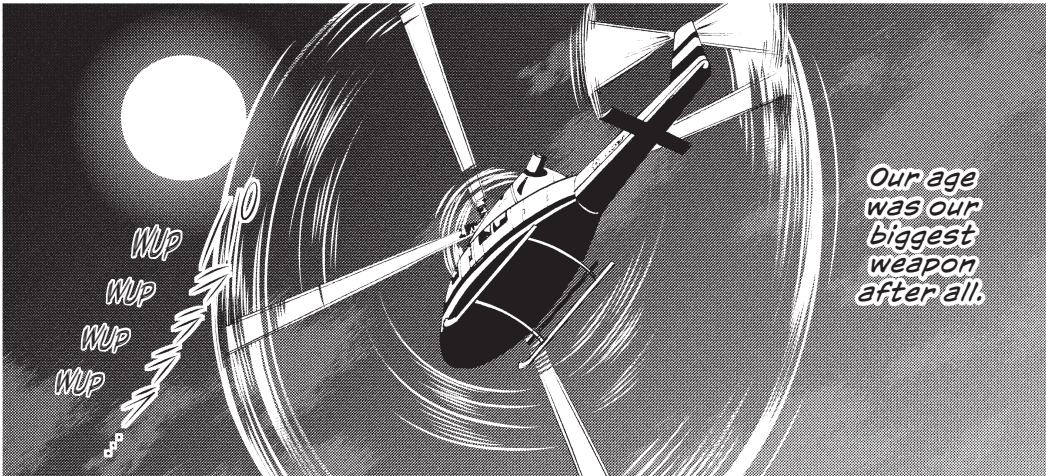

WE'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.
SHFF
SHFF

UM...
UH...
GRAB
BAM
KA-SHAK
TAKE IT EASY,
MICHIRU.

I OWE OLD MAN MORISAKA A FEW FAVORS FROM A WHILE BACK.
WHEN I WAS A BAD KID.
...Aren't you still a bad kid?

...YOU KNOW HIM, FUKUROI?


So,
I'd been saved by the Pretty Boys and their pipeline to the police, however narrow it might be.
No... The truth might be that Rei just let me go.


Our age was our biggest weapon after all.
WUP
WUP
WUP
WUP

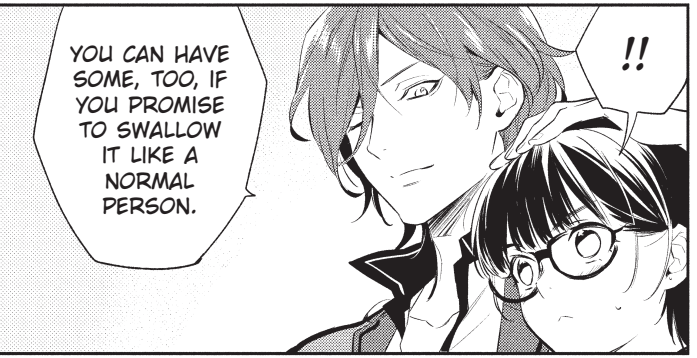
TUP
TUP
TUP
GOOD WORK, LADS!!!
The guy who got rescued is proudest of all...
THIS INCIDENT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ANOTHER GLORIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.
Makes sense—
I WONDER HOW MUCH WE SHOULD TELL THEM...
oh dear...
BUT THE REAL ADVENTURE STARTS NOW...
THEY'RE SURE TO RAKE US OVER THE COALS DOWN AT THE POLICE STATION.

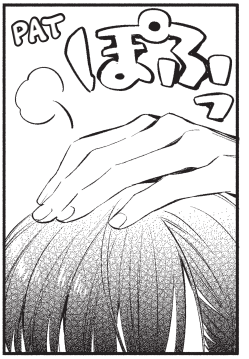
Rei may have let me go,
but the reality of what I witnessed hasn't disappeared.
Imagine the uproar if we told the police the truth.
We have a mountain of real problems facing us.
Art Room
PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB HQ
BEFORE WE WORRY ABOUT THAT,
—

MR. BARE-LEGS!
IS THERE ANYTHING TO EAT AROUND HERE?
I'M STARVING.
...YUP.
ガチャ
KA-CHICK
CHINESE FOOD, YOUR FAVORITE!
じゃん
TA-DAH
!

WOW!
ぴょんぴょん
Boing
So Sotoin's order was for Mr. Bare-Legs!
Because he used up more energy than any of us.
He doesn't deduce,
or do much else, either.
But he cares about his friends ...
And that qualifies him to lead.

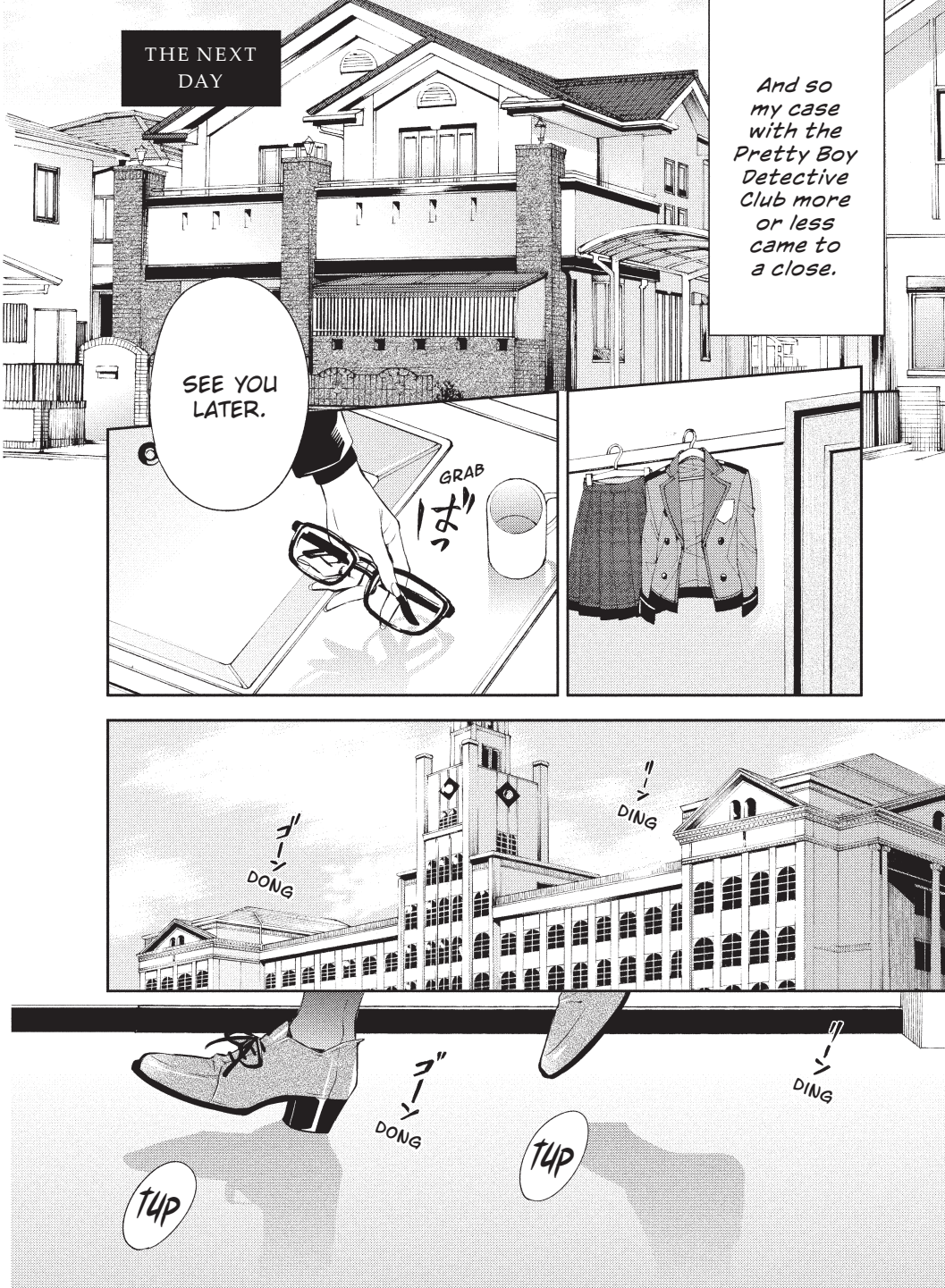
TWITCH
GROWL


YOU CAN HAVE SOME, TOO, IF YOU PROMISE TO SWALLOW IT LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.
!!


PAT
ぽふっ

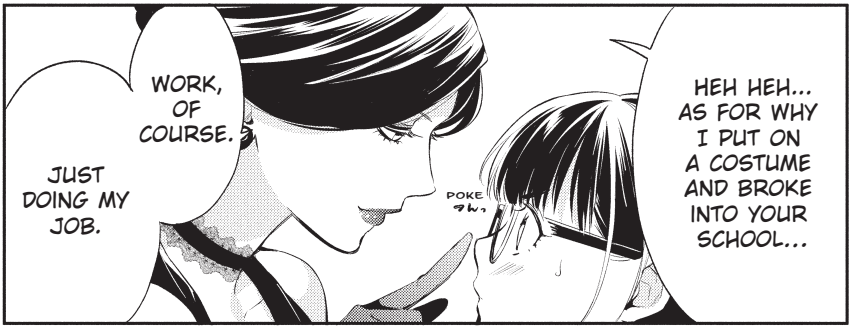
YES PLEASE!

...


THE NEXT DAY
And so my case with the Pretty Boy Detective Club more or less came to a close.
SEE YOU LATER.
GRAB
ばっ
ゴーン DONG
ゴーン DING
ゴーン DONG
ゴーン DING
TUP
TUP

Since when did we have such a beautiful teacher at our school?
and so sexy...
MURMUR
Huh?
Wait...
Rei?!

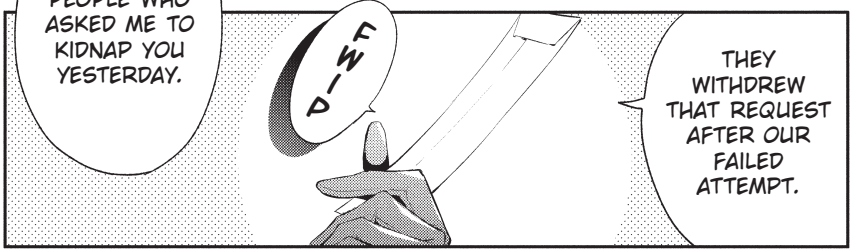
THREE OF MY DEAR TEAMMATES WERE LOCKED UP—
コツ CLICK
AND I SIMPLY HAD TO RESCUE THEM.
コツ CLICK
コツ CLICK
DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED,
MAYUMI.
JAILBREAKS ARE A SORT OF HOBBY FOR ME.


WORK, OF COURSE.
JUST DOING MY JOB.
POKE
HEH HEH... AS FOR WHY I PUT ON A COSTUME AND BROKE INTO YOUR SCHOOL...

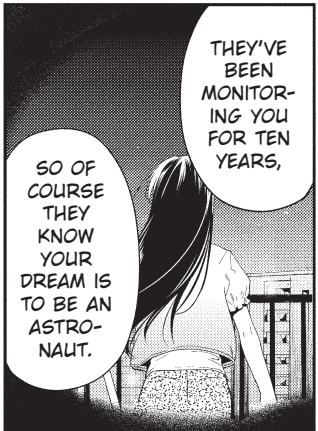
DO...
すっ
BUT MAYUMI.
STARE じっ!

YOU ALWAYS DRESS LIKE THAT?
TWITCH TWITCH
HUH?
OH...
UM...

WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
TODAY, I'VE GOT A DELIVERY FOR *YOU*.
A... DELIVERY ?
YES, A MESSAGE.
FROM THE PEOPLE WHO ASKED ME TO KIDNAP YOU YESTERDAY.


THEY WITHDREW THAT REQUEST AFTER OUR FAILED ATTEMPT.
FWIP

...
A deal...?

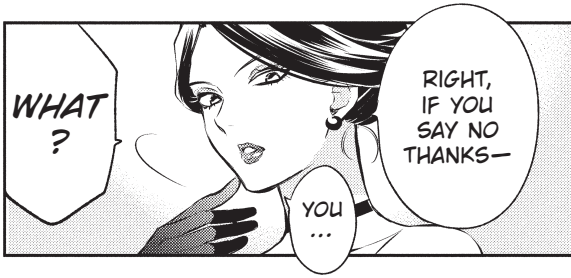

THEY'VE BEEN MONITORING YOU FOR TEN YEARS,
SO OF COURSE THEY KNOW YOUR DREAM IS TO BE AN ASTRONAUT.

INSTEAD,
THEY HAVE A DEAL TO OFFER YOU.

LIKE. I. SAID!
THEY HAVE A DEAL TO OFFER YOU.
THEY EXERT QUITE A BIT OF INFLUENCE OVER THIS COUNTRY'S SPACE PROGRAM.
AND AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED,
BUT WHAT OF IT?
?
SURE ... I FIGURED AS MUCH ...
THEY'LL MAKE SURE YOU BECOME AN ASTRONAUT.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
THEY'LL HELP YOU GET WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
IF YOU AGREE TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW TEN YEARS AGO,
WITH THIS, THOSE TEN YEARS WON'T HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.
I GUESS I SHOULD CONGRATULATE YOU.

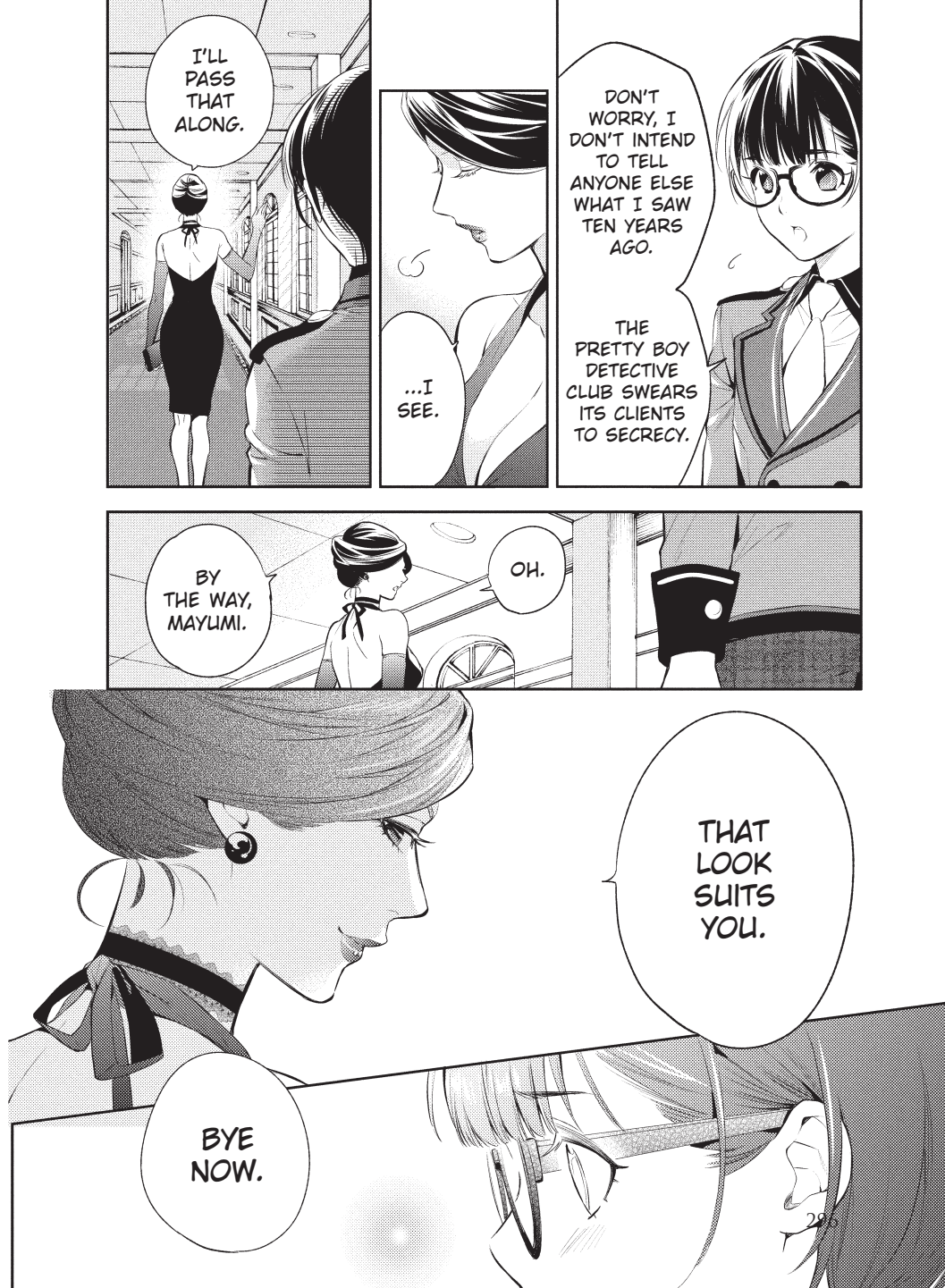
My future?
So what?
I know a guy who said this when his life was hanging in the balance.

NO THANK YOU.


WHAT?
RIGHT, IF YOU SAY NO THANKS—
YOU...

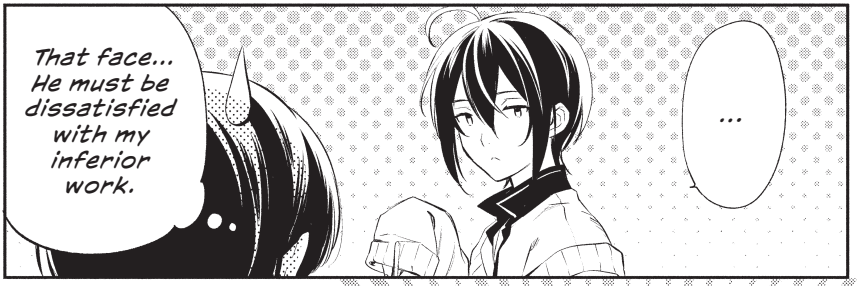
YOUR FUTURE IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE, DON'T BE SO HASTY.
YOU'RE SAYING NO?

THAT'S NOT A BEAUTI-FUL WAY TO LIVE.
...

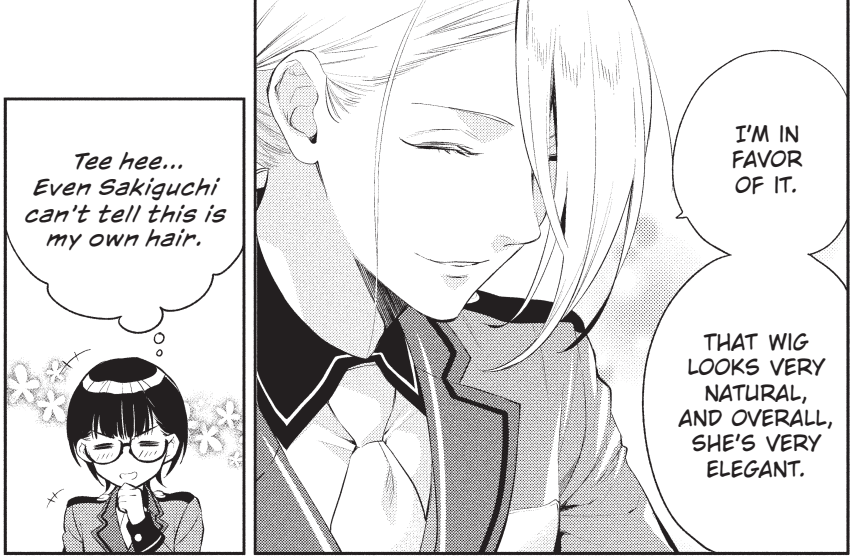

I'LL PASS THAT ALONG.
...I SEE.
DON'T WORRY, I DON'T INTEND TO TELL ANYONE ELSE WHAT I SAW TEN YEARS AGO.
THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB SWEARS ITS CLIENTS TO SECRECY.
BY THE WAY, MAYUMI.
OH.
THAT LOOK SUITS YOU.
BYE NOW.

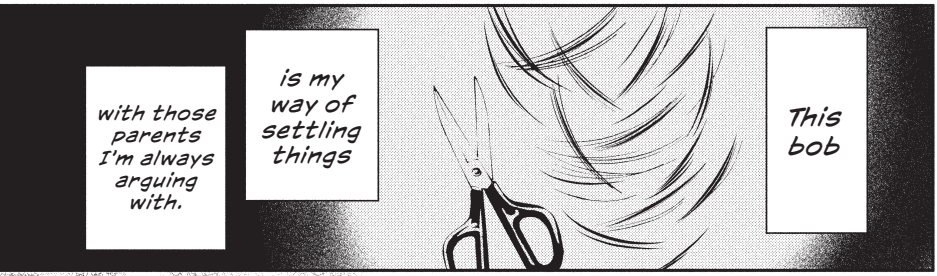
DOJIMA…
WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT…?!
H-
TWITCH
HOW DO YOU DO!
H-
TWITCH

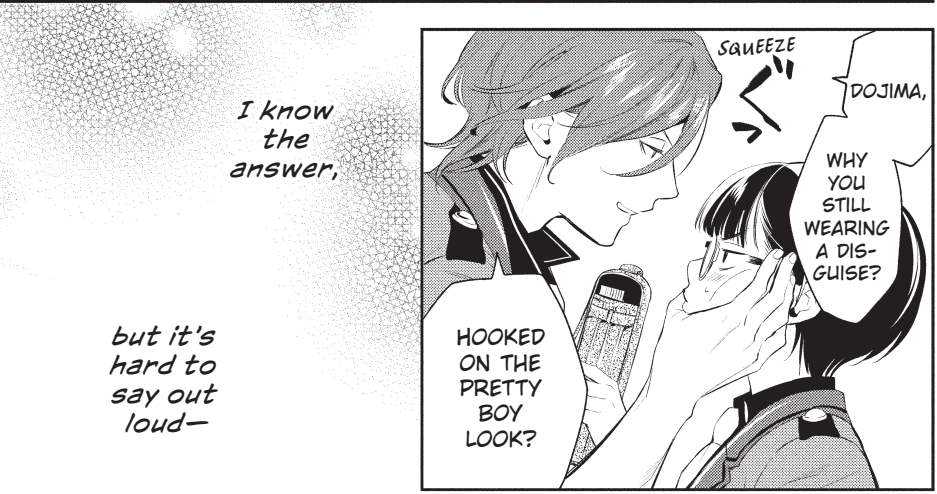
THEN SAYS, "QUITTING IS IRRESPONSIBLE"?
YOU ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO BULLIES THEIR COWORKERS INTO QUITTING,
The satire's out in full force!
WOW.
W-
HELL OF A ONE-EIGHTY.


That face... He must be dissatisfied with my inferior work.
...

WELL, NOW THEY ALL WEAR STOCKINGS ANYWAY, SO I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.
PERSONALLY, I PREFER GIRLS IN SKIRTS.
PINCH!
WHOA!
ビキッ

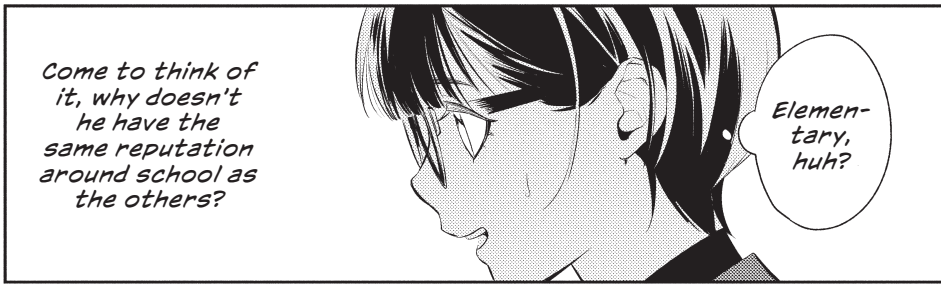

Tee hee... Even Sakiguchi can't tell this is my own hair.
I'M IN FAVOR OF IT.
THAT WIG LOOKS VERY NATURAL, AND OVERALL, SHE'S VERY ELEGANT.

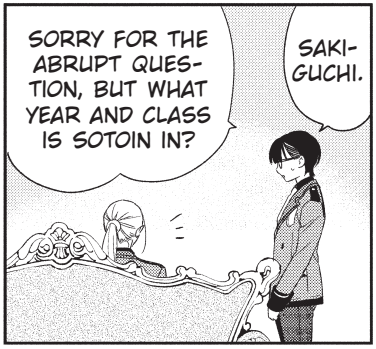

This bob
is my way of settling things
with those parents I'm always arguing with.


I know the answer,
but it's hard to say out loud—
SQUEEZE
DOJIMA,
WHY YOU STILL WEARING A DIS-GUISE?
HOOKED ON THE PRETTY BOY LOOK?

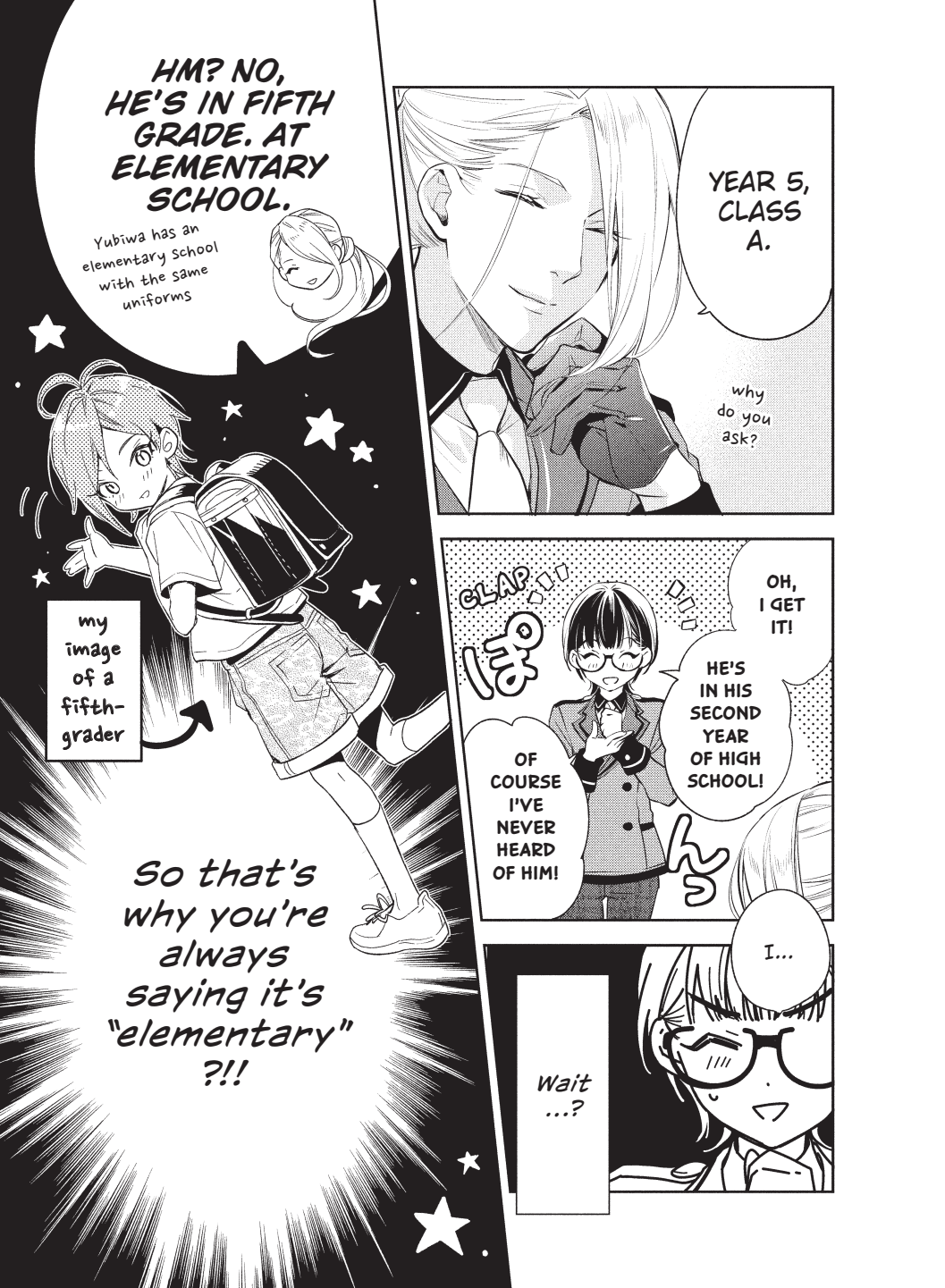
HE CAN'T GET HERE RIGHT AFTER CLASSES END.
LIKE I SAID, IT'S ELEMENTARY—

WHERE'S SOTOIN?
HUH?

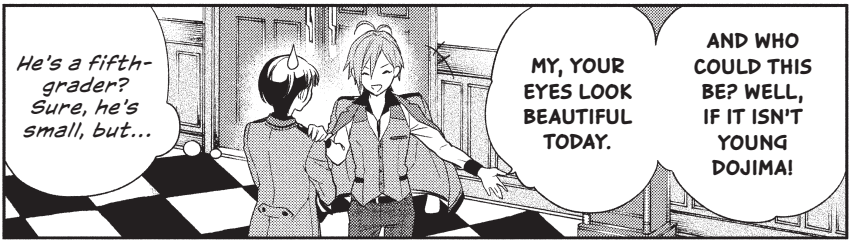

Come to think of it, why doesn't he have the same reputation around school as the others?
Elementary, huh?


SORRY FOR THE ABRUPT QUESTION, BUT WHAT YEAR AND CLASS IS SOTOIN IN?
SAKIGUCHI.

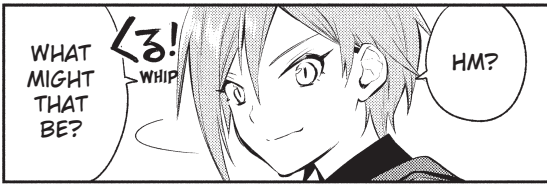
Does he even go to our school?
He's such a conspicuous oddball...
You'd think there'd be rumors about him...

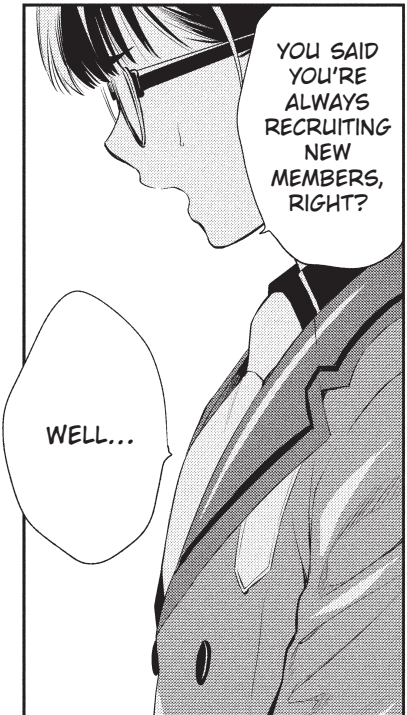

HM? NO, HE'S IN FIFTH GRADE. AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
Yubiwa has an elementary school with the same uniforms
my image of a fifth-grader
So that's why you're always saying it's "elementary" ?!!
YEAR 5, CLASS A.
why do you ask?
CLAP
ぽ
OH, I GET IT!
HE'S IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL!
OF COURSE I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM!
ん
I...
Wait ...?

HA HA HA HA!
WHAM
SORRY I'M LATE, LADS!


AND WHO COULD THIS BE? WELL, IF IT ISN'T YOUNG DOJIMA!
MY, YOUR EYES LOOK BEAUTIFUL TODAY.
He's a fifth-grader? Sure, he's small, but...

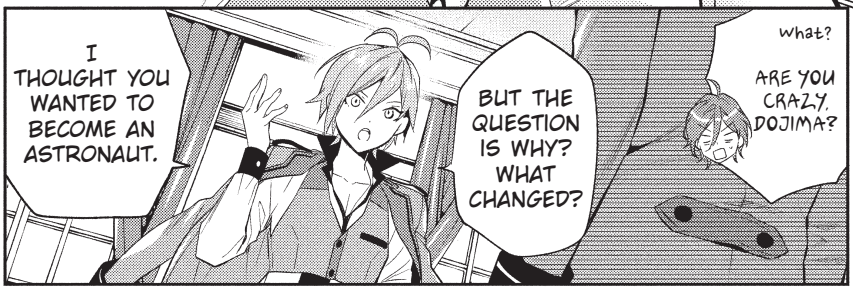
SOTOIN ...
I'VE GOT HEAPS OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU,
BUT RIGHT NOW I WANT TO SAY SOME-THING.


HM?
WHIP
WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?


YOU SAID YOU'RE ALWAYS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS, RIGHT?
WELL...

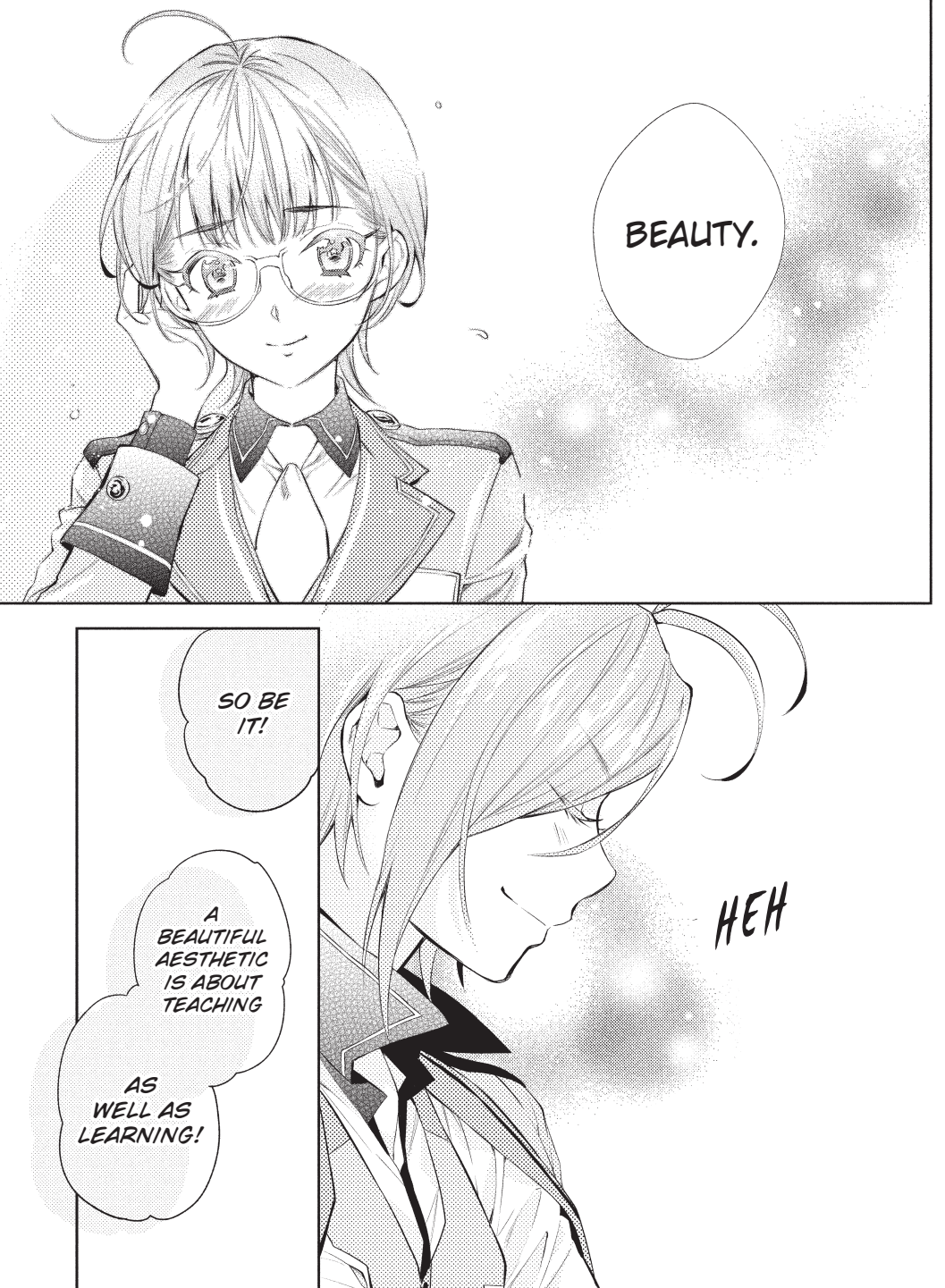
!!!
WOULD YOU LET ME JOIN THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB?!
HA HA HA!
WHAP
ガッ
WHAT CAN I SAY?
I knew it was no good ...

YOU KNOW I CAN'T TURN DOWN A REQUEST LIKE THAT!!
!!


I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT.
BUT THE QUESTION IS WHY? WHAT CHANGED?
What?
ARE YOU CRAZY, DOJIMA?

THAT UNLIKE REI, YOU'D USE THEM IN THE SERVICE OF GOOD.
I THOUGHT YOU
COULD HELP ME FIND A WAY TO USE MY EYES, SOTOIN...

NO, NOT GOOD...


BEAUTY.
SO BE IT!
A BEAUTIFUL AESTHETIC IS ABOUT TEACHING
AS WELL AS LEARNING!
HEH

HEY, ARE YOU CRAZY?!
SHE'S A GIRL!
ばっ
FWAP
!
IF SHE HAS A BOY'S HEART, I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM!
AND IF SHE'S GOT THE ODD NOTION OF JOINING OUR GROUP, THAT'S QUALIFICATION ENOUGH.
AND LET'S NOT FORGET! KOGORO AKECHI HAD A YOUNG ASSISTANT NAMED MAYUMI.
Wow, I had no idea.
Still ...
Assistant to a great detective?
Not bad.
LADS!
TIME TO GET READY.

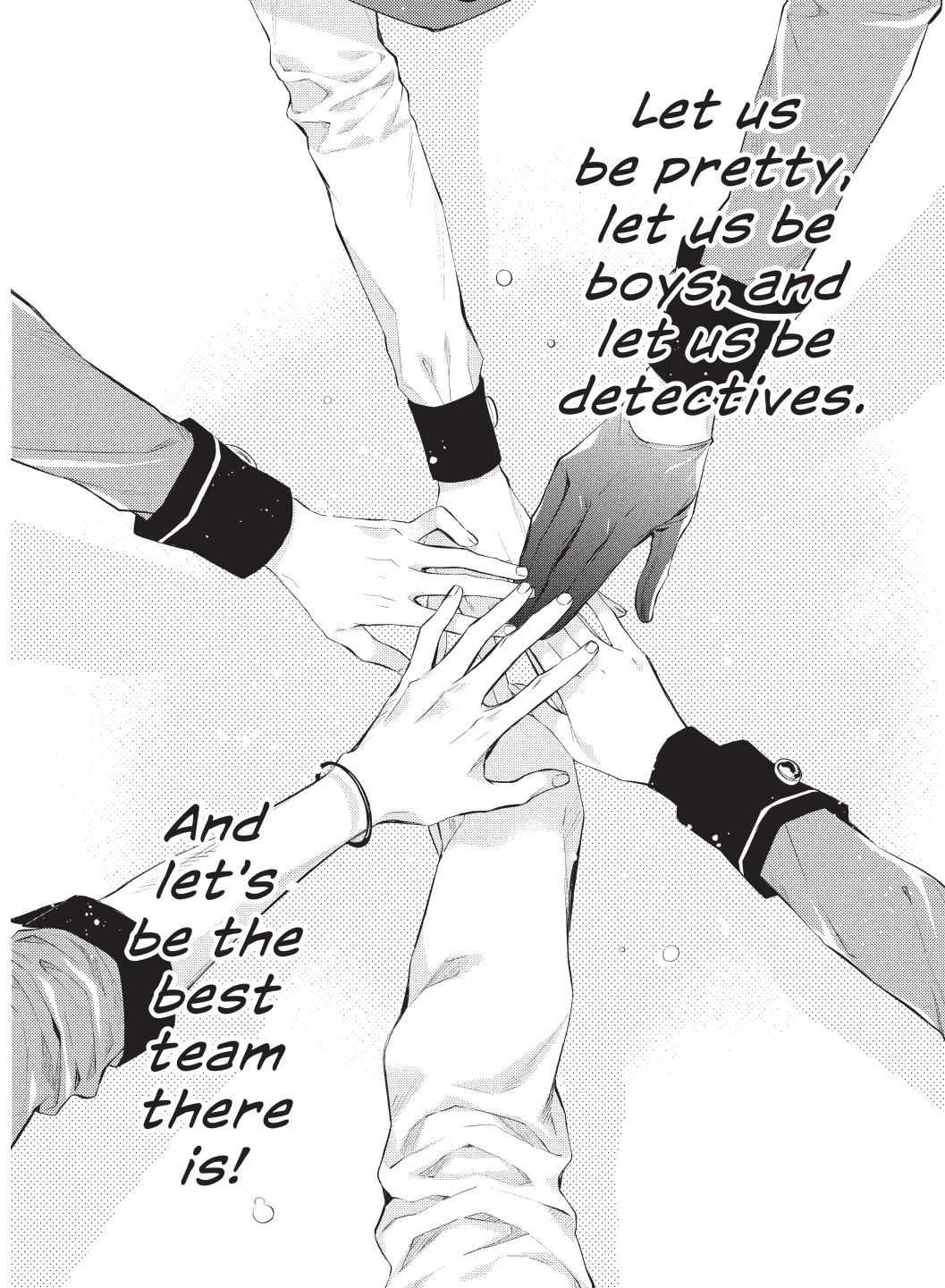
MICHIRU!
START COOKING FOR A WELCOME PARTY RIGHT AWAY.
NAGAHIRO!
THE WELCOME SPEECH IS IN YOUR HANDS.
HYOTA!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR TAP DANCE.
AND SOSAKU!
HOW ABOUT MAKING BADGES FOR EVERYONE?
THE DESIGN IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.

SWP
ALLOW ME TO WELCOME YOU, YOUNG MAYUMI DOJIMA.
YOUR TURBULENT BIRTHDAY HAS PASSED,
BUT YOU'VE FAILED TO BECOME AN ADULT.
UNTIL YOU FIND YOUR NEXT DREAM,
My first day as a 14-year-old.

A little proudly,
UNTIL YOU DECIDE ONCE MORE TO LOOK UP AT THE SKY,
and just a little bit beautifully,
REST ON YOUR OARS HERE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
I'M CERTAIN ONE DAY YOU'LL FIND A NEW STAR THAT SHINES DOWN BRIGHTLY UPON YOU.

WEL-
COME.

I gave up my dream.
TO THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB!
SWP


Let us be pretty, let us be boys, and let us be detectives.
And let's be the best team there is!

Continued in Volume 2

PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

A note on the manga version of Pretty Boy Detective Club

NISIOISIN

I originally conceived of the individuals in the Pretty Boy Detective Club as characters (or rather, as a group of characters) for the Kyoko Okitegami series. Because Yakusuke Kakushidate, the narrator of that series (one of them, anyway), is constantly being falsely accused of crimes, he keeps the phone numbers of various detectives and detective agencies in his phone so he can commission them to solve cases at the drop of a hat. Kyoko Okitegami is one of them, and the Pretty Boy Detective Club are another. I intended at some point to write a sort of "Kyoko Okitegami vs. Pretty Boy Detective Club" novel, but as I thought more about it, I decided they were capable of standing on their own as detectives, which led to Kodansha Taiga's publication of *Pretty Boy Detective Club—The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone*. As the author of the original work, I'm all the more delighted to see it adapted as a comic. Now, because of the nature of the series (although for different reasons than pertain to Koyomi Araragi from the *Monogatari* series), Mayumi Dojima's ordinary look hasn't yet appeared on the cover of any of the novels in the series—but I'm glad to see her portrayed so charmingly in the manga. I hope you'll agree that's part of the unique appeal, and beauty, of the manga version.

Drawing wild
pretty boys
every day
is a riot!

Stick around
for Book Two!

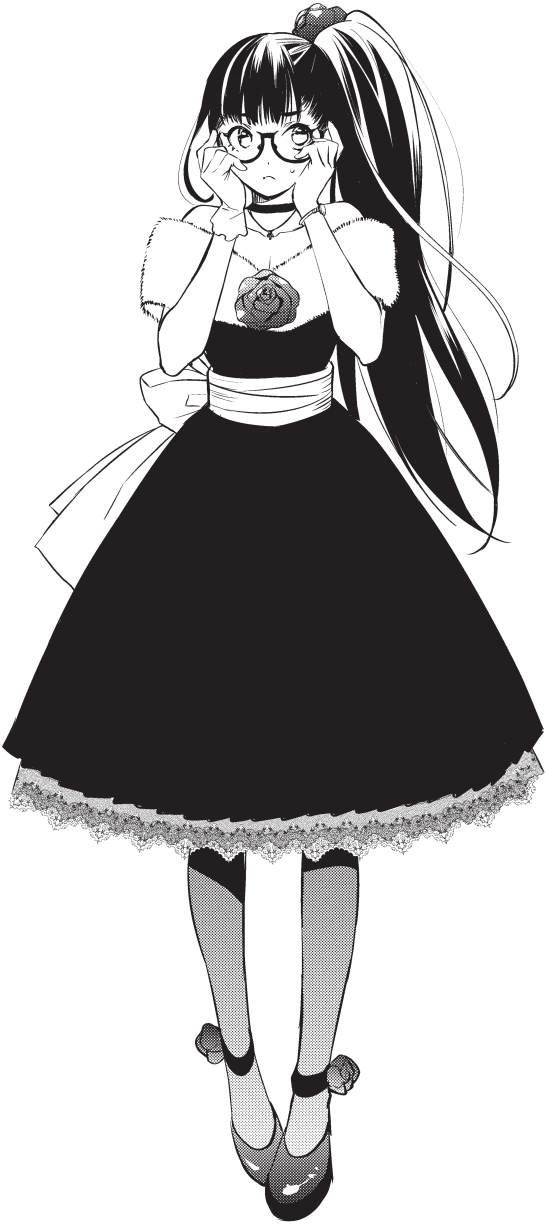
Obata.

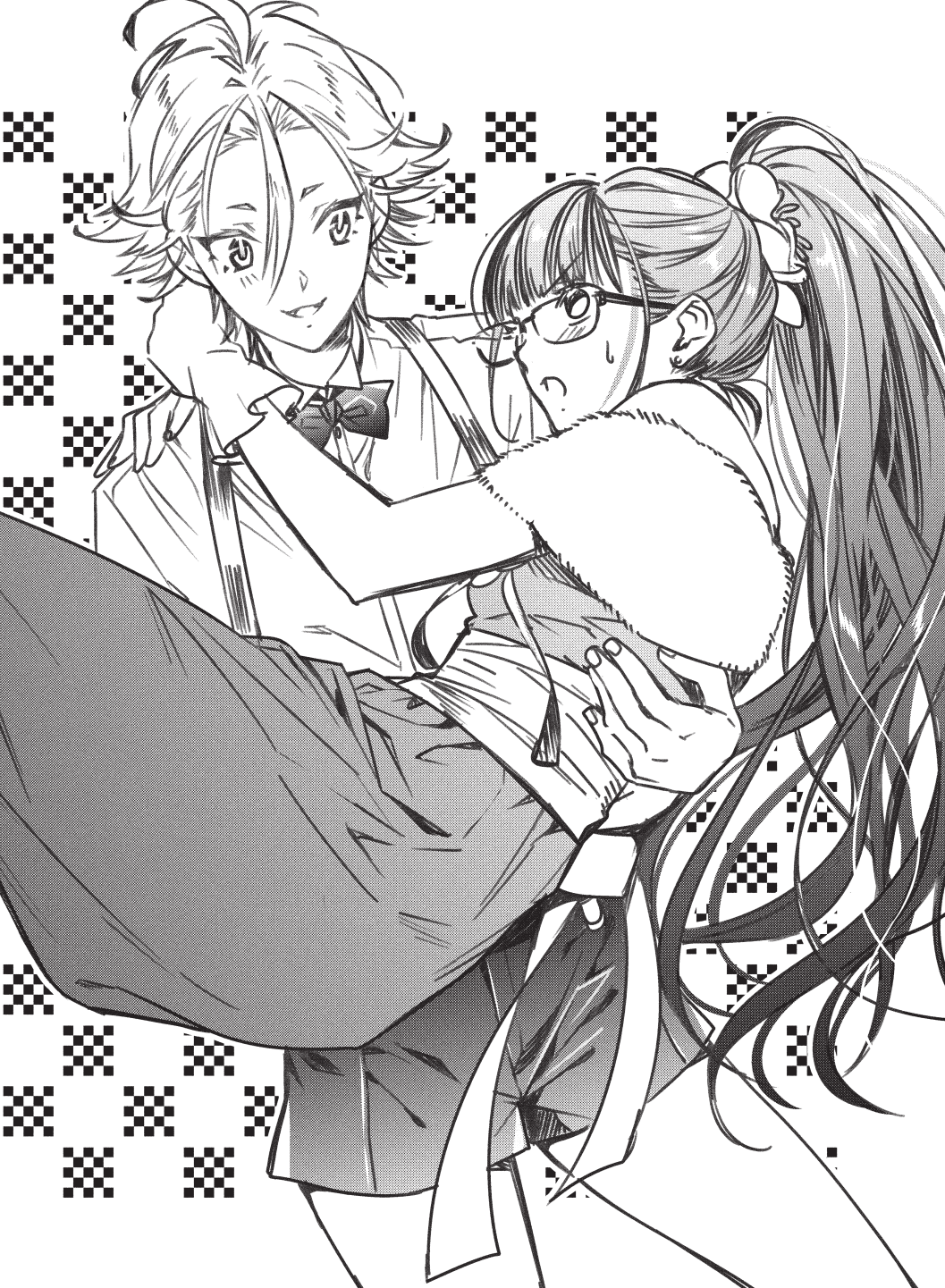
★THANKS★

NISHIO-sensei
Kina-sensei

★STAFF★

Kajita-san
Naoe-san
Yamaguchi-san
Ikeda-san





THANKS
NISHIO-sensei
Kina-sensei
STAFF
Kajita-san
Yamaguchifu-san
2017.1

M Y S T E R Y

COUNTERFEIT BILLS—

THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT...

INVITATION

Congratulations! You have in your hands one ticket to the Reasonable Doubt Casino.

Doors open every Sunday night. Please come to the address below in casual dress. Do not bring guests and tell no one of your plans.

Location:
Gymnasium #2
Kamikazari Middle School

which HIDE

a DARK

SECRET!!

A CASINO is operating out of nearby

KAMIKAZARI MIDDLE SCHOOL—

DON'T MESS WITH MY PLEASANT LUNCH BREAK!

Those look like the Kamikazari Middle guys we ran into before...

GRAB

Most students at Yubiwa Middle won't get anywhere near him.

YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME, ASSHOLE?

...

But what CONNECTION does it have to YUBIWA ACADEMY?

N E X T

PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB 2

COMING OCTOBER 2021!!

JOIN THE CLUB

Ten years ago, Mayumi Dojima saw a star...and she's been searching for it ever since. The mysterious organization that solves (and causes?) all the problems at Yubiwa Academy—the ***Pretty Boy Detective Club*** is on the case! Five beautiful youths, each more eccentric than the last, united only by their devotion to the aesthetics of mystery-solving. Together they find much, much more than they bargained for.

Read the original novels!

The Dark Star that Shines for You Alone

The Swindler, the Vanishing Man, and the Pretty Boys

The Pretty Boy in the Attic

AVAILABLE NOW!

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Pretty Boy Detective Club

Pretty Boy Detective Club (manga), volume 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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Lorina Mapa
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